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DETAILS AND TOKEN



FROM SINGING TELEGRAM TO KISSAGRAM

Nigella Lawson is not amused
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Senators clash on Whitewater report

Mrs Clinton accused of lies and cover-up

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

SENATE Republicans yesterday released a massive report on the Whitewater affair that amounted to the most damning indictment of a First Lady in American history.

On issue after issue, the Senate Whitewater committee's Republican majority accused Hillary Clinton of wrongdoing, directly challenged her truthfulness, and said aides had perjured themselves to protect her.

They accused her of complicity in a thoroughly fraudulent Arkansas land deal in the mid-1980s; they insisted that she had ordered a top-level cover-up after Vincent Foster's suicide in 1993, and they named her as the person most likely to have hidden records of her legal work for the corrupt bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair.

But the White House and Democrats on the committee rejected the charges of a "kangaroo court" and accused the Republicans of using lying in a despicable election-year witch-hunt.

In a dissenting report, the Democrats said that the 14-month investigation had found no misconduct or abuse of power by the President or his wife. The Republicans, it said, had hammered evidence into the precast mould of their conclusions. "Every act is portrayed in its most sinister light, every failure of recollection is treated as though the standard for human experience is total recall."

But Alfonso d'Amato, the committee chairman, mocked Administration witnesses for



Clinton: "complicity in fraudulent land deal"

their endless memory lapses, changed stories and repudiation of their own notes and diaries. At a televised press conference, he hurled charges of perjury and obstruction at the White House, saying it had "misused its power, circumvented the limits of its authority and attempted to manipulate the truth."

The report itself split the Whitewater scandal into what it called the Arkansas, Washington and Foster phases.

The "Arkansas phase" dealt with the Clintons' conduct in the mid-1980s when James McDougal, owner of Little Rock's Madison Guaranty bank, was pumping funds into

the Whitewater development company they jointly owned.

The report said that Governor Clinton, in an "apparent, if not actual, improper conflict of interests", gave Mr McDougal's failing bank regulatory advantages until it collapsed at a cost to the taxpayer of \$60 million.

It also accused Mrs Clinton, in her legal work for Madison, of "direct and substantial involvement" in a particularly fraudulent property transaction known as Castle Grande.

The Republicans contended that after Madison collapsed, the Clintons and their allies launched a massive cover-up that began in Arkansas, lasted throughout the 1992 presidential campaign, and continued in Washington in order "to hinder, impede and control investigations into Madison Guaranty and the Whitewater real estate investment".

They accused Mrs Clinton of destroying, perhaps illegally, some records of her work for Madison, and two of her partners - Vincent Foster and Webster Hubbell - of improperly removing others.

The report's Washington phase said that after the Clintons reached the White House, senior Administration officials improperly obtained inside information on supposedly independent federal investigations into Madison and passed that information to the White House which then sought to suppress them.

The "Foster phase" continued on page 2, col 1

Security scandal, page 17



Alan Shearer celebrates the penalty that opened the scoring and kept up his record of a goal in every match

4-1 triumph sees England through

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND ADRIAN LEE

ENGLAND swept into the quarter-finals of the European football championship last night with a consummate 4-1 victory over Holland at Wembley and now meet Spain on Saturday for a place in the last four.

Despite all their troubles of recent weeks, England revived memories of their 1966 World Cup triumph by finishing top of their preliminary group and

also scoring the most goals in any match so far.

However, the single Dutch goal prevented Scotland qualifying for the next round. Scotland could only beat Switzerland 1-0 at Villa Park with a goal from Ally McCoist and were eliminated on the number of goals scored. Holland now meet France, who won their group, at Arnhem on Saturday and the remaining quarter-finalists will be decided tonight.

At Wembley, Alan Shearer

and Teddy Sheringham each scored twice as England outplayed the Dutch for long spells of the easiest and most pleasing victory in Terry Venables' two-and-a-half-year reign as England coach. Patrick Kluivert replied for Holland in the 78th minute.

The one jarring note for England was that Paul Ince was booked for the second time in the competition and will miss the quarter-final.

Many of the 15,000 Dutch supporters, dressed in orange

shirts, shorts, boiler suits and policeman's helmets made of orange plastic, had spent the day happily drinking in London's West End.

There was also none of the trouble between rival fans that had scarred the last meeting between the two countries, when England lost 2-0 in a World Cup qualifying match in 1993 and 1,100 English supporters were deported.

Rampant England, page 52
Scotland out, page 52

Blair to shift policy on workers' rights

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is heading for a further confrontation with trade unions after signalling that a Labour government would not increase workers' rights.

Addressing German businessmen in Bonn last night, the Labour leader heralded a radical shift in the party's employment policy by saying that unions and workers would not be guaranteed extra protection under Labour.

"We need to rethink the whole of our philosophy in relation to the labour market," Mr Blair told the German employers' organisation, BDI. He said that he would support moves to boost competitiveness rather than increase regulation, and called for "an entirely new" economic approach - open markets and education and welfare reforms - if Europe was not to be overtaken by Asia.

Mr Blair used the rest of his speech to give an assurance that Labour would initiate a "fresh start" in relations with the EU, in which Britain would be "walking tall in Europe, not skulking on the sidelines".

A policy paper to be published later this week is expected to drop a commitment made by John Smith to introduce equal rights for full-time and part-time workers from the first day of employment. The Labour leadership is still negotiating with trade union leaders.

The paper, entitled *Building prosperity - flexibility, efficiency and fairness at work*, will cover Labour's revised position on trade union rights and recognition while ensuring "minimum"

Continued on page 2, col 7
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Leading article, page 21

Arndale resident slept through bomb blast

BY KATE ALDERSON

AN elderly and partly deaf man emerged from the wreckage of the bombed Arndale Centre in Manchester yesterday after apparently sleeping through the terrorist explosion that devastated the city centre.

The man, who lives in a block of flats within the complex, had his car taken to his bed on Saturday morning. He spent three days in his sickbed, sleeping and occasionally waking to have something to eat while 80,000 people around him were evacuated. He had no idea that he had survived a 1.5-tonne IRA bomb that detonated almost on his doorstep.

At 4pm yesterday, the police believe, the man finally looked out of his still intact window

and telephoned the housing association that manages the devastated property. He said: "I think there has been an explosion."

The housing association told the police and officers telephoned the man and told him to stay where he was until they arrived. Officers reached him within a few minutes and escorted him from the flat.

Social services are to re-house the man, who is in his 70s. He told the police that he had eaten well and asked the officers for a newspaper. He told the policeman who gave him a paper: "I am sorry to cause you any bother."

Terrorist pictures, page 5
Simon Jenkins, page 20



Millennium cash

The Millennium Exhibition to celebrate 2000 will go ahead in Greenwich. The Government ended months of speculation that the event might have to be scrapped because of insufficient private sector cash backing.

Pages 2, 21

Field sports backers infiltrate RSPCA to promote hunting

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of field sports enthusiasts have infiltrated the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in an attempt to halt the charity's 20-year campaign against fox and deer hunting.

Borrowing the tactics of its foes, the 88,000-member British Field Sports Society said yesterday that 3,000 supporters had joined Britain's oldest and most influential animal welfare pressure group in the past four months.

The RSPCA said it was alarmed by a dramatic increase in membership from the hunting lobby after years of stagnant recruitment. It said it was legally powerless under the terms of its charitable

status to exclude the new entrants despite its anti-blood sports policy.

A similar strategy has been used successfully in recent years by anti-hunting crusaders to infiltrate the National Trust and embarrass its leadership by winning support for resolutions calling for hunting to be banned on Trust land.

The RSPCA is vulnerable to such tactics because it has only 29,000 fee-paying members with voting rights; most of its annual income of £38 million comes from legacies and donations from more than 300,000 non-voting supporters.

The new entrants will have a first chance to flex their muscles at the RSPCA's annual

general meeting at Church House in London on Saturday, when a motion reaffirming the society's opposition to hunting will be debated. However, only a few joined in time to acquire voting rights this year.

The long-term aim is to influence RSPCA policy by electing to the charity's 25-strong executive council people who are sympathetic to the role of field sports in conserving wildlife and the countryside.

The RSPCA has ordered branches to assess the infiltration. It concedes that at least 1,000 people have joined, but insists there will be no change in its anti-hunting stance.

Former chef cooks up £70m profit in two years

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MICHAEL CANNON, formerly a Berni Inn chef, was yesterday boasting £70 million made by selling the Magic Pub Company to Greene King, the East Anglian brewers, for nearly £200 million.

It was the second time in three years that Mr Cannon, 55, had achieved business success. In 1993 he netted £26 million by selling Devenish, his first pub company. After that he spent a year on "gardening leave" before deciding two years ago that he wanted a fresh challenge. He started his new company after buying about 300 run-down Chef and Brewer pubs.

He invested around £12 million in the

new company. Other directors took a 10 per cent holding and the City put up the rest of the money. The company set out to build up a series of highly individual chains. These included such now familiar names as the Rat and Parrot, Hungry Horse and Pickled Newt.

Phillip Snook, managing director of the company, said: "When we bought the pubs they were in a fair state of decay. We wanted to create something slightly over the top, often painting them in outlandish colours to give a signal to customers that they had changed."

Mr Cannon had considered floating the chain on the stock market but decided to sell after receiving offers from five potential buyers. The pubs, attractively

sited in London and the South East, earned £13 million last year on a turnover of £83 million.

Mr Cannon first entered the pub business in 1975, investing £30,000 for a half share in the Naval Volunteer in Bristol. By 1993 his first company was also worth some £200 million.

The directors of the Magic Pub Company will stay on until control passes to Greene King in September. Mr Snook, who has worked with Mr Cannon in both his pub companies, said: "We haven't worked out exactly what we are going to do yet, but we certainly intend to get back into the leisure business."

Rights issue, page 28



Cannon: decided he needed a new challenge

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All the fun of the fair from those prepared to chance their arms

Prime Minister's Questions is a sort of lucky dip. Plunge your arm into this tub of sawdust between 3.15 and 3.30, and you may come up with everything — or nothing. It could be a trinket or a puzzle. It could be a child's Bible or a potent stinkbomb. Few of the Questions relate to the Premier's responsibilities. No sequential logic links them, no common thread save the politician's perennial itch for attention. They get it while they can and how they can. Some seek

to help the Prime Minister, others to hurt. Some seek promotion, others are careless of career. Some hope to do good in the world, others only to amaze — or amuse. Roger Berry (Lab, Kingswood) amused. Did Mr Major realise, he asked, that when he said he had "had a bellyful of the Tory Party", he spoke for the nation? Tony Blair offered what Jan Morris has called the smile of an ageing colt. Major flashed his tee-hee grin. Plunging back into the sawdust we emerged with

Peter Ainsworth (C, Surrey E) who looks like a superior kind of caddie. Ainsworth seeks office. Did the PM realise, he wondered, that "more and more people in Germany wish their economy was run like ours?" Everybody laughed, which was not the effect Mr Ainsworth intended. What next? Tony Blair asked a couple of sorrowful, grown-up questions "about Sinn Féin, which was exactly the effect Mr Blair had intended. In three minutes we had



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

moved from the state of the Conservative Party, to the state of the economy, to the future of Ireland. Now Ken Livingstone (Lab, Brent E) put in a late bid to boost the chances of the Communist candidate in the Russian presidential elections. Hold your breath, Moscow: hang on there in, Gennadi Zyuganov;

Ken's on his way! Mr Livingstone wanted Mr Major to stop Boris Yeltsin hogging the Russian State media. The Prime Minister did not undertake to do this. Our lucky dip lady, Betty Boothroyd, called Andrew Welsh (SNP, Angus E) hoping us to discuss Monday night's *Panorama* with Mr Major. "I

don't waste my time watching nonsense on *Panorama*, grinned the PM. Conversation stalled. Back to the tub. Up popped Michael Brown (C, Briggs & Cleithorpes), anxious to convey to Mr Major the urgent desire of Cleithorpes for the miracle of closed-circuit television. Mr Brown was also (but secretly) anxious to convey to Cleithorpes the miracle of Mr Brown. The PM shared our wonder at the miracle of Mr Brown, but could make no promises about CCTV. Next from the sawdust came

something earnest. Bob Litherland (Lab, Manchester Central) speaks seldom at PM's Questions, but always sincerely. He was worried about compensation for injury and damage after last weekend's explosion in Manchester. Major gave a detailed answer about who was, and who was not, covered, and how to apply to an insurance company. It was 3.29. The German economy, Major's bellyful of MPs, prospects for Sinn Féin in Ulster and CCTV in Cleithorpes, Russian elections, in-

surance in Manchester ... what final surprise did the tub hold? "Question 5, Sir Michael Neupert," called the Chair, Sir Michael (C Romford) offered an admiring obituary of Sir Fitzroy Maclean, the reputed model for James Bond. The PM concurred. MPs cheered. Say what you like about our Parliament but it amuses and entertains without straining the capacities of its actors or its audience beyond the natural limits of either. There are worse formulae.

Whitewater

Continued from page 1

cerned events after the White House deputy counsel's suicide in 1993 when he was working on Whitewater. The report stated that after learning of Mr Foster's death, Mrs Clinton swiftly "dispatched her trusted lieutenants to contain any potential embarrassment or political damage". It asserted that on the First Lady's instructions — relayed through a New York lawyer and confidante named Susan Thomas — Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel, and Maggie Williams, Mrs Clinton's chief of staff, searched Mr Foster's office, removed sensitive Whitewater documents, and thwarted police and federal investigations of Mr Foster's death "at every turn".

The report said: "The actions of these senior White House officials constitute a highly improper pattern of deliberate misconduct." The Republicans also accused Mr Nussbaum, Ms Williams and Mrs Clinton of perjuring themselves in their subsequent testimony to the committee "in order to conceal Mrs Clinton's pivotal role".

Finally, the report dealt with last year's mysterious discovery in the White House private quarters of Mrs Clinton's legal billing records. These showed not only the work Mrs Clinton had done for Madison, but linked her for the first time to the Castle Grande deal. When the records were subpoenaed in 1993, the White House said they were missing.

Mrs Clinton has denied knowing where they were in the interim, or how they could have reached the so-called Book Room where they were found, but the report concluded: "Mrs Clinton is more likely than any other known individual to have placed the records in the Book Room."

Blair unites with Major to intensify pressure on Adams

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair intensified the mounting pressure on Gerry Adams yesterday to deliver an IRA ceasefire or be banished forever from the Northern Ireland peace process.

With President Clinton and Dublin leader Mr Adams that he must halt the men of violence or face political isolation, the Prime Minister and Labour leader united to warn the Sinn Féin president that the "moment of truth" had arrived for him. Mr Major said: "The time has come for Sinn Féin to make up its mind. Either it's going to be a democratic organisation taking part in democratic politics, or it is going to stay as the reverse coin of the IRA, with intermingled membership, in which case it has no part in democratic politics."

Mr Major stressed that for Sinn Féin to enter talks, the IRA must call an "unequivocal ceasefire immediately and show it is credible, it is lasting and is not just a tactical device".

Mr Blair, who had told Mr Major in advance of his intention to raise Northern Ireland with him at Question Time in the Commons, was determined to make plain to Sinn Féin and the IRA that in Government he would take as tough a line. He said the "appalling outrage" in Manchester demonstrated the wisdom of demanding a

ceasefire before allowing the IRA into the talks. The responsibility now lay squarely on Sinn Féin if it was to play any future part in the peace process.

He said the only course open to Sinn Féin was to ensure the IRA ceased violence. "If it cannot or won't, then this process should proceed with the democratic parties, an agreement should be reached and put to a ballot of the people."

The display of unity in London came as John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, challenged Mr Adams to say whether he had called on the IRA to restore its ceasefire and to make clear whether he still supported the IRA's armed struggle. Although Dublin decided against cutting off contacts with Sinn Féin, and to maintain a channel of communication through officials, it made plain that Mr Adams's answer to the questions would clearly have an impact on further contact.

The Irish Government said in a statement that Sinn Féin's answers would have to be "genuine and convincing, not tactical or semantical". Mr Bruton broke off ministerial contact with Sinn Féin after the London Docklands bomb attack in February.

Senior Irish sources had been optimistic until last week that the IRA would declare a truce. Mr Bruton's angry re-

sponse to the Manchester blast and the shooting of a policeman in Co Limerick show that he feels deeply let down by republicans.

The unprecedented pressure from the Irish Government on Sinn Féin drew an angry response from Mr Adams, who said it was "discourteous" of ministers to put questions to his party via the media. He declined to say whether he had asked the IRA to restore its ceasefire. However, he came close to distancing Sinn Féin from IRA violence when he was asked on Irish Radio whether he supported the "armed struggle".

Mr Adams said: "We're not involved in it and we do not advocate it. We clearly are a party which has suffered as a result of the armed actions of others and our focus has been, and will continue to be, the total end of all armed actions."

Mr Adams's comments do not indicate that Sinn Féin is about to split from the IRA, but they underline Sinn Féin's insistence that it is distinct from the IRA.

Andrew Hunter, the chairman of the Conservative Northern Ireland Backbench Committee, called on John Major and John Bruton last night to hold a security summit in the light of the IRA bombing of Manchester.

Hunt for bombers, page 5
Simon Jenkins, page 20

Tourist suing for \$1m faces agonising decision

By RICHARD DUCE

A BRITISH tourist who is pursuing a ground-breaking damages action in the American courts still suffers constant pain and has counselling four years after being shot by a mugger in Miami.

Patricia Shurben, 40, could be awarded up to \$1 million (£660,000) if she succeeds in her fight to prove that her rental car's number plate made her a target for the muggers. Their .45 bullet missed her spine by the width of a thumbnail and is still lodged in her left shoulder.

Earlier this week the Florida Court of Appeal gave her permission to sue the car-hire company and the tour operator which, she claims, failed to warn her of the risks of driving the car.

Last night her lawyer, George Mustakas, who practices in London and Florida, said: "She can have the bullet removed and risk losing the use of her arms or keep the bullet inside her and live in constant pain."

Miss Shurben, from Weston-super-Mare, was shot in 1992 after she and a friend inadvertently drove into a violent area of Miami. They were confronted by three muggers and Miss Shurben was wounded as her friend escaped by swinging the car around the gang. A family friend of Miss Shurben said last night: "She feels a sense of grave injustice that there was



Patricia Shurben, who has a bullet in her shoulder

no warning that the rental car plates made her an obvious target for attack in some areas of Miami. Her life has been devastated by this incident. Rental cars in Florida no longer carry the distinctive tourist plates.

Miss Shurben is suing Dollar car hire at Miami airport, the travel agency Lunn Poly and Virgin Travel. The Florida Court of Appeal has ruled that she can take action against the companies before

a jury in the Florida District Court, although Virgin and Lunn Poly are contesting the decision. Miss Shurben is to ask for punitive damages as well as an award for negligence.

Mr Mustakas said it was decided to pursue the case in Florida because the "English system is not consumer-orientated. This is a ground-breaking action. The defendants argue that there is no duty to warn in common law."

EU may ignore Britain's veto

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S most senior diplomat in Brussels gave warning yesterday that Europe's patience was wearing thin over the non-cooperation campaign in pursuit of an end to the ban on beef exports.

Sir Stephen Wall, the permanent representative to the European Union, appeared to suggest that the rest of Europe might try to bypass Britain's policy of vetoing EU measures, if it continued after the European summit this weekend in Florence. He told a Commons committee: "If it isn't resolved then the other member states and the Commission will turn to how they can maintain what they see as legitimate business." There was "muttering but no specific threat yet", he said.

Sir Stephen spoke after Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, acknowledged that a deal might not be possible at the summit. There was no chance of reaching agreement before the EU heads of government assembled in Florence on Friday, he said.

Amid signs of strengthening opposition on the Continent to moves to lift the ban, imposed after fears were raised over the possible risk to humans from

BSE, Mr Rifkind gave warning that the non-cooperation strategy would continue if it failed to reach a deal in Italy.

Tory Euro-sceptics say that John Major would do better to return from Florence empty-handed than with a "fudge" that contained no clear timescale for lifting the ban. Mr Rifkind said: "Even if the Florence summit doesn't prove to be successful, that is not the end of the world. I think there is a good chance of it being inevitably in the last few days before the meeting of the heads of government, that is when the negotiation gets toughest."

Mr Rifkind acknowledged that the Government's tactics had "irritated and frustrated" other member states but insisted that ministers had had no other options.

John Redwood, the leading Euro-sceptic and former Cabinet minister, insisted that there could be no backing down. "As the Government has chosen to use this particular tactic, all it can do is keep it word. It would be very bad for its complete negotiation position if it backed away."

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Blair policy

Continued from page 1

standards" for workers. It will make clear that a Labour Government would not repeal the main planks of the Tories' trade union legislation. "Of course, there must be minimum standards of fair treatment at work but the best long-term protection a modern employee can have is to be equipped to succeed," he said. "Governments should regulate labour markets in a way which maximises both the incentive to employ and the incentive to work."

Trade unions reacted cautiously last night, saying they would wait until Friday to see the policy paper. But an official from the general workers' union, the GMB, warned Mr Blair against dropping the Smith policy on employers' rights.

On Europe, Mr Blair said: "It is demeaning to my country, that is so rightly proud of its history and traditions, to be reduced to the margins of influence, dragged along querulously behind the vision and drive of others." Labour would fight the next election on a strongly pro-European ticket despite the electoral risks.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, responded by accusing Mr Blair of "selling Britain short" and seeking a European "love-in".

Blair courted, page 14
Leading article, page 21

Families left out of victim scheme

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

FAMILIES of the victims of murder and manslaughter are to be excluded from proposals unveiled yesterday that will give victims of crime a greater influence in the criminal justice system.

They will be barred from giving written statements, explaining how the killing has affected their lives, for use during criminal proceedings. The victims of other crimes, including attempted murder, grievous bodily harm and domestic burglary, will give a statement to be considered by police, the Crown Prosecution Service and judges.

The victim statement scheme and "one-stop shops", in which certain police sta-

tions will provide information on the progress of cases, will be piloted in six police force areas — Metropolitan, Hampshire, Merseyside, Sussex, Lancashire and Bedfordshire.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, unveiled the proposals yesterday when he launched a revised Victims' Charter aimed at improving the treatment of victims within the criminal justice system.

Mr Howard said: "The statement will be considered by all those in the criminal justice system dealing with a case." He insisted that the victims would not be allowed to say what charge should be brought or recommend the sentence to be passed.

In three of the pilot areas police will take down the victim statements and in the

others the victims will be allowed to write their own statements.

The plans have already run into opposition from the judiciary, some of whom have serious misgivings about the legal implications of allowing victims to write their own statements. They have argued with the Home Office that any statement must meet the evidential requirements of the legal system.

The decision to bar families of murder and manslaughter victims from the new scheme was criticised by the Victim Support charity. Helen Reeves, its director, said: "We are very concerned that some of the most vulnerable victims are being excluded from these plans to improve the information they receive, and the

opportunities to provide details about how crime has affected them."

Mr Howard defended the decision. "Once you extend the notion of victims being other than the actual victim, you will get into a very extended area. It is not just the families of victims of homicide who suffer as a result of crime."

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said Mr Howard's plans were impractical. "The seriousness of the offence determines the nature of the sentence," Mr Howard's victim statements are an attempt to influence that decision. Judges are highly unlikely to allow that to happen."

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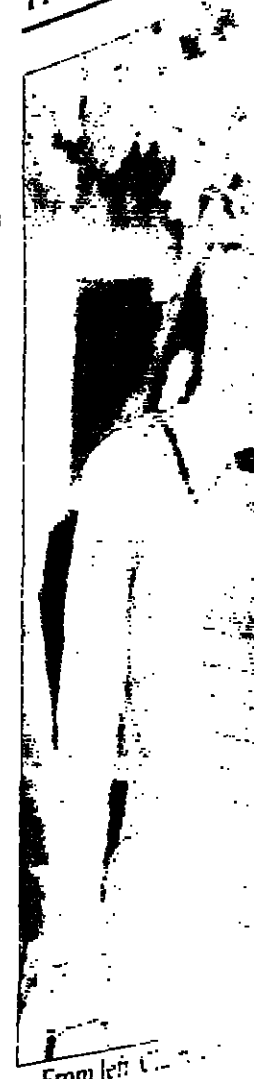
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Murder vic





From left: Claire Callot, from Provence, in a hat strewn with roses, Mrs Israel Kristensen, fresh as a daisy, Patti Wong, from Japan, in a striking ballerina creation and Amanda Fox in petal-covered pyramid

By GRACE BRADBERRY
STYLE EDITOR

Ascot racegoers let summer go to their heads

FLOWERS were a popular theme at Ascot yesterday, adorning some of the most striking hats in the Royal Enclosure.

Claire Callot, 20, from Provence, who was attending Ascot for the first time, wore a hat covered in roses, which she bought in Paris.

While many racegoers opted for conservative straw hats with wide ribbons, the more extreme millinery was created by lesser known designers.

Amanda Jones, 33, wore an extraordinary cone of ruffled fabric, designed by Mui Lee. They had both been students at the London College of Fashion.

The warm weather encouraged a large attendance, with 45,355 people watching the St James's Palace Stakes, a 9 per cent increase on last year. For the first time armed police patrolled the entrances and

the Royal Enclosure as a result of increased security after the Manchester bomb.

One sartorial talking point was provided by a man. When the royal carriages drove through shortly after 2pm it was noticed that the Prince of Wales was wearing a lilac shirt with a white collar. This created instant interest: was it correct? Presumably so, given the colour-

ful crowd in the Royal Enclosure.

Andrew Parker Bowles, with his elegant second wife, Rosemary, mingled with the wives of lesser-known pop stars, and many people who would not be known for anything much at all. Rosemary Parker Bowles wore an elegant pale lemon suit but other women made up for her restraint with outfits that fulfilled expectations for over-the-top fashion.

Isabell Kristensen, a Danish designer who is making a name for herself in London, wore one of her own creations, a yellow suit with an enormous daisy hat.

Among the best dressed were the Honourable Mrs Waley-Green in an enormous white hat by Philip Treacy and Patti Wong, a Hong Kong socialite, who wore a Thierry Mugler suit and a distinctive ballerina-style hat.

Some of the most elegant women wore the simplest outfits. Sandra Howard, accompanying her husband, the Home Secretary, said that her black-and-white suit was "homemade" but she might have been joking.

Others in the royal party were more conservative. The

Queen wore a lavender, floral print dress. Princess Margaret a pale blue suit and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother wore a turquoise green floral ensemble.

Alexandra Legge-Bourke caused a frisson of excitement when she arrived with a young man on her arm. His name badge, however, revealed him to be Harry Legge-Bourke, her younger

brother. Miss Legge-Bourke wore a red shift dress and matching hat.

The Queen Mother, who will be 96 in August, delighted crowds at Ascot yesterday by refusing to let her advancing years interfere with her lifelong passion for the turf (Alan Hamilton writes). She travelled from the royal box to the paddock in what has become the trademark transport of her later years, a battery-driven golf buggy.

Fashion, page 18
Racing, page 46-47

Couple ambushed on woodland walk by rapist gunman

By JOANNA BALE

AN ARMED rapist dragged a 16-year-old girl from her boyfriend at gunpoint as they strolled through a Hampshire wood. The boyfriend managed to raise an alarm and the man was spotted by police, but still managed to escape.

Yesterday detectives said they had not ruled out a possible link between the rape and four similar attacks on courting couples in woodland 25 miles away.

In the latest incident, the man armed with a handgun and a knife approached the couple near a lake at Havant Thicket, near Havant, on Monday evening. Despite being threatened, the 28-year-old boyfriend tried to follow the girl and the gunman at a distance through dense undergrowth, but lost sight of them and ran off to telephone police. Officers spotted the attacker, but he ran off as his victim ran towards them.

More than 50 police officers, some equipped with night-vision goggles, spent until the early hours of yesterday searching the four square miles of woods for the attacker. A spotter plane and a helicopter with thermal-imaging equipment were also used in the hunt, without success.

The man was described as dark-haired, 5ft tall, in his 20s and scruffily dressed in a German military-style black and white striped camouflage jacket and jeans.

Police said there were no "positive links" with between the rape and cases at Farley Mount, Winchester, but they were keeping an open mind. In the earlier attacks, a man wearing a camouflage jacket and armed with a handgun also singled out courting couples in secluded country areas. In an April attack which featured on BBC's *Crime-watch* programme, the man threatened a couple with a pistol, blindfolded them, tied



Police searched Havant Thicket until early yesterday

them up, then dragged a 16-year-old girl into his car and drove off. He released her after sexually assaulting her in a lay-by.

Detective Chief Inspector Neil Kingman of Hampshire police said Monday's victim was "extremely distressed" but it was hoped that the couple would return to the wood to help to establish the exact location of the incident. He said: "They were approached by this individual carrying a handgun and a knife. The individual told the boyfriend to clear off while he took the girl away to another part of the woods. The boyfriend followed as best he could at a discrete distance, bearing in mind that the assailant had a gun and a knife — that's pretty frightening for anybody. At some stage he lost track of them. He then tried to summon help from a man walking a terrier dog, then went to a telephone box and dialled 999."

"The man was actually seen by officers while they were searching the area. They came across the girl, who ran to the officers. At the same time, the assailant fled into another part of the woods."

Police gave chase, but lost him. Traffic police also mounted static patrols on the A3(M)

and also patrolled Manor Lodge Road and Havant Road, which border the area.

Describing the boyfriend's actions as commendable, Mr Kingman said: "He tried as best he could to keep an eye on his girlfriend, but bearing in mind he had been threatened with a gun and a knife, it is quite understandable that he might have been difficult for him to follow quite closely. He did the next best thing which was to summon the police."

Police officers and social workers were interviewing the girl yesterday afternoon to try to piece together precise details of the attack. Detectives appealed for witnesses, particularly the man with the terrier dog.

Havant Thicket is owned by the Forestry Commission and is popular with ramblers as well as dog walkers. The Staunton Way long-distance footpath runs through it. Kathleen Edmonds, a pensioner who lives near the woods, said: "I have lived here for 41 years and the area has gradually declined as housing estates have sprung up."

"People using the woods get their cars broken into and the local children are always causing fires. And now a girl has been raped. I'm terrified even to open my door these days."

Woman in sex change jailed for blackmail

By PETER FOSTER

A TRANSEXUAL who tried to extort £5 million from Harrods was jailed for eight years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Lydie Banot, 41, threatened to release mice into the food hall, spread food poisoning in the restaurants and put fleas in the clothes department as the store prepared for the Christmas rush.

Banot, who was born male, pleaded guilty to three charges of conspiring to demand money with menaces. Brian Altman, for the prosecution, told the court that Banot had formed a grudge against the store because, she claimed, she had been scarred by electrolysis treatment to remove facial hair in the beauty salon.

In a letter addressed personally to Mohammed Al Fayed, the Harrods chairman, last November, Banot had demanded that £5 million be placed in a Swiss bank account. The store's security department, led by John Macnamara, a retired detective chief superintendent in the Serious Fraud Squad, called in police who mounted an operation to foil Banot's extortion attempt.

Shani Barnes, for Banot, of Walthamstow, east London, said she had a sex-change operation in 1993 and was suffering from a gender identity disorder, which had caused her massive physical and mental suffering and was not to be confused with transvestism. Banot's demand for £5 million was clearly ridiculous and was a cry for help for acknowledgement of years of pain.

Judge Forrester said Banot had run a "sustained and sophisticated" campaign to blackmail Harrods, which was vulnerable to such attacks, and only a custodial sentence was appropriate. "If it were otherwise like-minded people might be more inclined to follow in your footsteps and any such inclination must be deterred."

Rape-case jury shown secret video

By A STAFF REPORTER

A JURY watched a videotape yesterday of a 16-year-old girl allegedly being raped by the model agency boss Peter Martin in his office. The nine men and three women on the jury at Manchester Crown Court, where Mr Martin faces 16 sex charges, sat impassively as they watched the 24-minute tape, said to have been filmed secretly by Mr Martin.

The girl was heard saying "No" several times as Mr Martin, 56, began to have sex with her on a couch at the Model Team International Agency. Each time she said it, Mr Martin retorted "Why?"

Mr Martin and his co-defendant, Tracey Grainger, 30, his former assistant,

had screens next to them in the dock but did not watch the video. Much of the soundtrack was confused by the sound of a film, *Carry On - Follow That Camel*, playing on the television in Mr Martin's office in Manchester.

Mr Martin, of Sale, pleads not guilty to raping eight young women, six indecent assaults and two charges of taking indecent photographs of girls under 16. Miss Grainger, of Atherton, Greater Manchester, denies four indecent assaults on young women, three of them jointly with Mr Martin.

The alleged rape victim, Miss B, now 29, was allowed to leave court while the film was shown. Earlier Miss B, who had joined the agency at the age of 14 and later

worked there, told how she was first raped by him after being driven to his home shortly after her sixteenth birthday, while she was still at school.

She said that Mr Martin had sex with her six or seven more times over about eight months, but she had not been willing on any occasion. She said she had continued at the model agency because she thought she should act "as if everything was all right".

She left the agency after a dispute with Mr Martin about not taking a message at the reception desk, where she worked after leaving school. She was also concerned, she said, about the attention he was giving her sister, then aged 10 or 11. The trial was adjourned until today.

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Murder victim worked for police

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT



Janet Murgatroyd

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of a woman found floating in a river discovered yesterday that she was one of their own clerks.

Janet Murgatroyd, 20, a clerk at Lancashire police headquarters in Preston, was found in the River Ribble in Preston, naked and beaten about the head and face. Miss Murgatroyd, who lived with her mother, worked at night for the crime reports bureau. She recently completed her first year of part-time study for a law degree at the University

of Central Lancashire and had taken the job to fund her studies.

Police are trying to trace a couple seen arguing early last Sunday in gardens close to the river and the area where Miss Murgatroyd lived in Penwortham, near Preston. A woman dressed like Miss Murgatroyd was later seen in a distressed state on the bridge trying to call a taxi. Twenty minutes later a witness has reported seeing a man emerging from bushes leading down to the riverbank.

Detective Superintendent Graham Gooch said Miss Murgatroyd had a broken jaw

and was badly beaten but not sexually assaulted. She had not been in the water very long and was almost certainly dead when she entered the river.

He said: "The fact that this victim worked for the force makes it especially traumatic for her colleagues, but we must deal with it with the same determination as any other murder hunt."

Superintendent Karen Hives said: "She was a determined and confident young woman who knew her way in life. We have had to make sure that those who were closest to Janet have not had to handle the case."

WPC tells of decision to evacuate bomb store

By KATE ALDERSON

THE Manchester policeman who discovered the lorry containing the IRA bomb spoke yesterday of her fear as she decided, on her own initiative, to evacuate Marks & Spencer.

PC Wendy McCormick, 34, was on routine patrol in the city centre that morning when she was told over her radio about the bomb warning. Within minutes, she had located the bomb outside Marks & Spencer. The vehicle was the only one in the area.

"I was frightened to death. If it had exploded then I wouldn't be here to tell the tale. I just thought: it's got to be this one — let's evacuate. The radio was so busy I couldn't get through, so I took it on my own back to evacuate Marks & Spencer."

She ran in and set about getting shoppers and workers out. "It was an effort to stop people walking past me towards the van, but we did the best we could with 13 officers. I was trying not to swear at people and I was trying to stress that this one was real. She had realised her life was in danger and said to herself that she did not want to die just because 'somebody won't finish their pizza and get out'."

By the time the bomb went off, she was behind the cordon. She was knocked off her feet, but not injured, and began helping the injured and distressed.

She said: "I would never have expected something that big. It was the most frightening thing I've had to deal with in ten years' service."

PC Gary Hartley, 29, joined her just after she discovered the van. He said: "I just couldn't believe that I was so close to such a threat. You think you're going to read about something like that in the newspapers — it didn't seem real."

A picture of PC Vanessa Winstanley, 23, as she rescued a blood-soaked elderly woman, was seen by newspaper readers the next day. PC Winstanley said: "Somebody came up to me and said there was a lady in a shop with head injuries. She was sitting on a chair, obviously in shock and

not speaking. There was blood running from her head down her back and across her chest." PC Winstanley helped the woman into a pub, to wait for the emergency services.

The nearest police officer to the blast flattened himself in a recess in an alleyway as glass and masonry rained down. Inspector Dave Comerford, 46, has been nicknamed "Lucky" by colleagues after emerging with only a nick to his right earlobe.

"There was an unbelievable noise and a blast of heat and compression," he said. "The next thing, the surrounding windows fell upon me. I had a half-inch covering of glass fragments on my head and shoulders."

Mr Comerford, who headed the officers initially evacuating the area, said it would have been "totally impractical" to move huge numbers of people any further from the bomb scene. "You are trying to move people who don't want to go. You have to push them back and then you threaten them. You have 80,000 people behind you trying to get into the city not believing anything is going to happen."

Almost 100 people who lived in the area that took the brunt of the explosion seem likely to lose their possessions. Authorities will not know until today if the Arndale building, where their flats are, will have to be demolished with their possessions still inside. Many occupants are not insured.

Manchester City Council has provided emergency shelter for the blast victims in a university conference centre. However, from today it will be needed by the university.

Candy Shaw, 27, like many of the others, has only the clothes that she was wearing when they had to run for their lives. "On Saturday we were left with nowhere to go, and no money. Businesses are getting help, but nobody seems to be thinking about us."

The refugees had been given £20 by the council. Lynne Binchenough, 47, said: "We have no money, no clothes, and nowhere to go."

Simon Jenkins, page 20



Wendy McCormick, left, and Vanessa Winstanley were on duty in the city centre

Terrorists may be pictured today

By KATE ALDERSON

POLICE are hopeful of releasing descriptions of the Manchester bombers today after analysing hours of video footage and receiving scores of calls from the public.

Colin Phillips, Assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, said that investigators might now know the face of the man who paid £2,000 in cash for the lorry used in Saturday's bombing. Detectives were sifting through masses of information and he expected to announce "significant developments". He added: "We are very hopeful we may have some descriptions of the people."

Officers have received calls from members of the public with information about possible sightings along the route from Peterborough, where the lorry was bought.

"We are still examining a huge number of security videos, but we can't confirm at this stage if we have sightings of the lorry all the way on its route from Peterborough to Manchester," Mr Phillips said. "We are hopeful that we may have caught the bombers on video and we are

sifting through a mass of material."

Police are talking to everyone connected with the sale of the lorry and the transportation of the money used to buy the white Ford Cargo vehicle.

Yesterday, detectives in Peterborough were still interviewing the dealer, Arthur Lovebridge, of Eye, Cambridgeshire, who sold the lorry to an unknown Irishman last Friday. A taxi driver who delivered the cash payment to Mr Lovebridge's home was also still being interviewed.

Mr Phillips, who will be in Peterborough this afternoon to release more information about the bombers, said of the two men being interviewed: "I stress we are talking to them as witnesses only."

"Hopefully we will have some sort of description, at least of the person who handed the money to the taxi driver."

The area immediately around the bomb site was still cordoned off yesterday to allow police and forensic scientists to carry out a detailed search, but an outer cordon was lifted on Monday evening.

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The kissagrams who strip people of their dignity

By EMMA WILKINS

THE kissagram business is under threat from companies which breach the boundaries of good taste by humiliating their victims, it was claimed yesterday.

Vindictive requests from ex-wives and boyfriends, who want their former partners publicly embarrassed for as little as £25, should be rejected, directors of reputable kissagram companies say.

The warning comes after Gail Steele, a 44-year-old company director, claimed at an industrial tribunal that she suffered sexual discrimination when male colleagues hired a stripagram for her birthday. The hearing earlier this week was told that Ms Steele's colleagues asked for her to be blindfolded, handcuffed and humiliated.

The kissagram industry, which came to Britain in the 1970s from America, is not governed by any regulations. The lack of rules means company directors should take responsibility for observing the bounds of good taste, according to Steve Ashford, 36, who runs KB Promotions, a kissagram company based

in Croydon. "The whole purpose of kissagrams is to provide fun at a party. If you end up upsetting someone, then that defeats the object."

"The other day I had a request from a woman who wanted a roly-poly stripagram [a fat naked woman] for her husband because they were getting divorced. She wanted to get her own back so I turned it down. I've had requests for pies to be thrown in people's faces or to be covered in shaving foam but it's not the sort of thing I want to get involved with. You end up with a bad reputation."

"A woman called me recently to say she had been in touch with another agency for a male stripper. She was offered a 75-year-old man. That sort of thing affects the reputation of the stripagram business."

Mr Ashford, who charges between £25 and £45 per kissagram, has 50 male and female employees. He also offers clowns for children's parties and singing telegrams for weddings. "There is nothing wrong with someone taking their clothes off as long as the client is comfortable," he said. "If the client is not enjoying it, then a good stripper will know immediately and stop."

There are two main singing telegram companies in London, but between them they cover the Home Counties and parts of Kent and Sussex and there are kissagram agencies in all the main cities.

Earl Thomas, 28, the stripper hired by Ms Steele's colleagues, has offered Ms Steele his apologies and now works in a fancy dress shop in Clapham, south London.

He said: "I don't remember the lady in this case but I'm sorry if she was upset. I changed jobs because I'm getting too old for stripping."



Earl Thomas: hired to humiliate employee

Nigella Lawson, page 19

Dunblane killer's club 'like Hitler Youth'

Shadow minister took his son away from Hamilton

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

GEORGE ROBERTSON, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, removed his ten-year-old son from one of the Dunblane gunman's clubs because it was militaristic and resembled the Hitler Youth.

Mr Robertson, the MP for Hamilton, who has lived in Dunblane for more than 20 years, told Lord Cullen's inquiry yesterday of his ten-year battle to stop Thomas Hamilton operating boys' clubs. The inquiry is investigating the massacre of 16 pupils and their teacher by Hamilton on March 13.

Mr Robertson, who has two sons and a daughter, said that in 1983 his son Malcolm had started to attend Dunblane Rovers, a club run by Hamilton from the gymnasium of Dunblane High School. It offered five-a-side football and gymnastics at a time when there was little for young boys to do in the area.

Initially Mr Robertson had no concerns about the club. Malcolm attended three or four times with some of his friends before missing an evening. Mr Robertson and his wife, Sandra, became alarmed when Hamilton wrote to their son after his one-week absence. The letter reprimanded the boy and asked for an explanation.

The letter concerned Mr Robertson so much that, along

with another parent, he visited the club. The two men watched for 15 minutes through a glass door.

"We were both struck very quickly by the bizarre nature of what was going on," Mr Robertson told the inquiry. "There was a large number of small boys in shorts, stripped to the waist, being bossed around by two or three middle-aged men swaggering around in a very militaristic way. I've since described it as looking a bit like Hitler Youth."

"They were marching about. There was something sinister in the way they were conducting themselves."

Mr Robertson and the other father both decided to withdraw their sons from the club. As a result Hamilton had visited him at home the next

day demanding to know his reasons and wanting to speak to Malcolm.

Mr Robertson said he became increasingly concerned that someone like Hamilton, with no qualifications, no checkable background and no credentials could lease a school gym, use the equipment without supervision and be in charge of "an army of small boys".

In 1983 he spoke to Michael Forsyth, now Secretary of State for Scotland but then a newly elected MP for the constituency, about his concerns. He said that as Mr Forsyth questioned him about the evidence he had against Hamilton, he was aware that his arguments seemed weak.

He said that he in no way blamed Mr Forsyth for his cautious reaction at that stage. Mr Robertson said he continued to keep Mr Forsyth informed of Hamilton's activities and sent him leaflets Hamilton posted through doors in Dunblane.

When Hamilton took his grievances to the local government ombudsman and won his case against the Central Regional Council, forcing the council to renew his let of the school, Mr Robertson said he and his wife were in despair.

He told Lord Cullen that the use of the school premises had given Hamilton a bogus respectability. "Had he not been



Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, left, and his Labour Shadow George Robertson at the inquiry yesterday



Hamilton: reprimanded MP's ten-year-old son

allowed to get past first base and use public premises, perhaps he would not have gained the same level of frustrated obsession he ultimately ended up in," he said.

Mr Forsyth told the inquiry that he first met Hamilton in 1983. He had come to his surgery complaining that certain Scouts leaders were

spreading rumours about him which had led to the council refusing to lease him the school premises for his club.

Initially Mr Forsyth felt Hamilton had a genuine grievance and this feeling was validated by the local government ombudsman's report which backed Hamilton. But over the years Hamilton had

bombarded Mr Forsyth with letters complaining about the Scouts, the council and the police. Mr Forsyth passed them on to the relevant authorities and started to change his views about Hamilton, who he said was clearly "not as straightforward as he first appeared".

The last letter to Mr Forsyth

from Hamilton was dated February 11, 1996, a month before the massacre. In retrospect, Mr Forsyth said, this letter had a different tone to the others and Hamilton, who had argued his case with the tenacity of a terrier, had seemed resigned to giving up the fight.

The inquiry continues.

Shephard orders accent on grammar

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

PUPILS of 14 face tougher tests in grammar, spelling and punctuation after a review of English assessment ordered by Gillian Shephard in her clampdown on "trendy teaching".

The Education and Employment Secretary acted yesterday after academics from Southampton University reported that secondary school pupils were learning more about grammar in foreign language lessons than in English. The researchers found a dramatic decline in the teaching of formal grammar.

Mrs Shephard has asked the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to re-examine its tests at 14 to see that they "reflect the emphasis the curriculum puts on correct English". The revised national curriculum gives a higher priority to spelling, punctuation and grammar, but ministers believe that only rigorous testing will ensure schools implement the changes fully.

Any changes probably would not be introduced until 1998. Commenting on the research, Mrs Shephard said: "If children are to learn to express themselves clearly and effectively and make full use of our wonderful language, they need to be taught how the English language works. This may seem a remarkably obvious message but it is one that sadly was lost sight of by the trendy teaching of the 1960s and 1970s."

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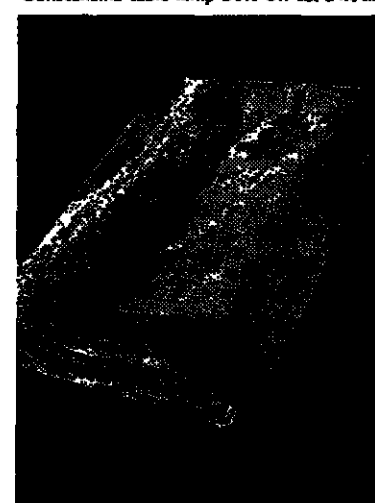
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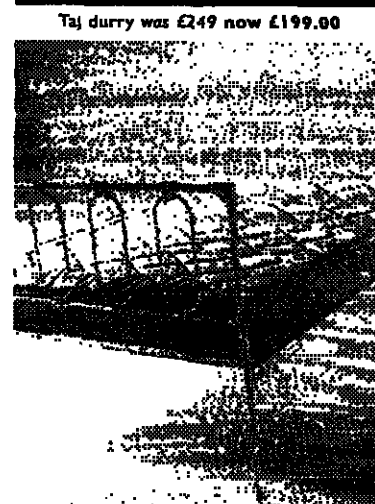
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20 June

NEWS IN BRIEF

Apology for abuse by priests

A senior member of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland has apologised to children who were sexually abused by priests. Bishop Seamus Haggarty told a seminar in Londonderry that the abuse of children assumed a more serious dimension when clergy were the offenders.

"It is a matter of the most profound regret that a very small number of clergy has offended in this way. I apologise unreservedly to victims and their families for the violation of trust and for the emotional and psychological damage which they have suffered," he said.

L-test strike

Up to 7,000 driving tests are expected to be cancelled next Wednesday because of a one-day strike by examiners. The pay strike, by 900 members of the Public Service, Tax and Commerce union, will be followed by a work-to-rule.

Algae hazard

The public has been banned from the largest natural lake in Wales because of toxic algae. The blue-green blooms, which can be lethal to animals, also closed Bala Lake in Snowdonia National Park last year.

Fatal prank

Leigh Morris, 11, strangled himself while trying to amuse his younger sisters by swinging from a washing line. The children were in the care of a babysitter at their home in Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, when the accident happened.

Bird overboard

Bert, the vulture that could not fly, has finally taken to the skies from a hot-air balloon. The year-old African vulture, unwilling to fly after being reared by humans, took off from above Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, Bedfordshire.

Cox's pipe-in

Firefighters prevented a gas explosion by plugging a fractured pipe with an apple. The pipe, in Stratford-upon-Avon, was damaged after a car crashed into a flat. A fireman took an apple from the rubble for the makeshift repair.

Queue jumpers

John Butcher, a Tory MP, urged ministers to convert the central reservation of the M6 into a picnic area and to allow jugglers and acrobats to perform there, to ease the stress of drivers caught in queues around Birmingham.

CORRECTION

John Abineri is the actor who portrays a butler in the Ferret Rocher TV commercial, not the late Presto Lockwood (obituary, May 22).

Trapped hedgehogs bale out of trouble

A FAMILY of hedgehogs survived being racked, stacked, vacuum-packed and transported hundreds of miles inside a bale of hay. After more than a week, they were spotted by a girl who bought the hay from a pet shop to use for her rabbit's hutch.

It is believed that the mother hedgehog and four new-born young were scooped up by a hay-baler in a field near Reading, Berkshire.

The bale was stacked on to a lorry and driven to a factory, where it was vacuum-packed inside a heavy plastic sack and left on a factory shelf for ten days.

Later it was transported a hundred miles by lorry to a pet food shop in Southampton, where it was sold to 12-year-old Carin Anderson for her rabbit.

The girl discovered the creatures when she opened the bag at home. She contacted a wildlife rescuer, Dorothy Squires, who said: "It is the most extraordinary thing that any of the had survived. The

mother was dehydrated, and she must have been living on the condensation that was caused by their breath inside the plastic.

"The air had almost run out, and they would have been dead very soon. It is amazing that they have survived at all, a real triumph."

The family will be released into a protected garden once they have recovered from their ordeal.



Carina Anderson with one of the young

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Reform may spark divorce rush

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SURGE in divorce in the next two years was predicted by lawyers yesterday as separating couples rush to get to the courts before the Government's reforms, agreed in the Commons on Monday night, become law.

Although the Family Law Act will not take effect until January 1, 1999, officials intend to move swiftly to put a framework for testing the measures by this autumn. The Lord Chancellor's Depart-

ment is planning to set up pilot studies around the country, so that divorcing couples will first have an information briefing and the opportunity to use mediation and counselling services.

However, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said yesterday that the Government would not rush through the Act's provisions for splitting pensions at the time of divorce. He said that ministers would wait for the publication of a White Paper early next year and legislation was not likely to come into effect until

at least 1999. Mr Lilley said: "This is a complex and sensitive issue which needs to take into account changes to matrimonial, tax and pensions law. The Government is not prepared to legislate prematurely in an area which affects so many people."

The reforms will see a new approach to divorce for the 150,000 couples who separate each year, with the scrapping of the "quickie" divorce.

David Hodson, a solicitor with the Family Law Consortium, a Covent Garden practice which offers legal advice,

mediation and counselling, said: "By the autumn, in perhaps half a dozen centres, everything should be in place bar the law itself." He predicted a rise in work for family lawyers under the old laws. But the next two years would see a culture change, with many more divorcing couples using mediation.

However, there were fears yesterday that the measures might prompt people to divorce who might otherwise have stayed married. Grant Howell, of the solicitors Charles Russell, said: "I have

clients who come to me, not having spoken to their partners, who want to know the options. When I tell them they can be divorced in four months, they go away — and sometimes that is the end of it."

There has to be a concern that when I say it will now take a minimum of 19 months, if there are children, then I think there will be people who say: 'I can't stand things for that long — I must start proceedings now.'"

Nigel Shepherd, chairman of the Solicitor Family Law Association, said the Bill as passed was very different from its original, and presented a host of bureaucratic hurdles. "Labour's Paul Boateng described it as a dog's breakfast. It still is, although it has a couple more edible courses."

Work still had to be done on the detailed framework, "but family lawyers are determined to get this into a format which will help people come to arrangements more amicably than they do now". He did not predict an immediate rush, but the number of divorces might rise as the implementation of the new law loomed.

There will be transitional arrangements: couples already in the process of divorcing under the two or five-year separation are expected to be unaffected by the new law.

Shake-up shifts emphasis to mediation

By FRANCES GIBB

THE divorce reforms agreed by MPs represent the biggest shake-up since the Divorce Reform Act of 1969. They remove the notion of fault and scrap the "quickie" divorce. The main changes are:

□ The sole ground for divorce will be "irretrievable breakdown". Couples will not have to cite a reason, as now when 75 per cent cite fault-based grounds, such as adultery or unreasonable behaviour, so as to avoid waiting two years to divorce on grounds of separation for five years, if both do not agree.

□ People will not be able to divorce within a year of their marriage. They must then wait a minimum of 12 months (18 months if there are children) — a

"cooling-off" period for reflection.

□ Couples will have to reach agreement on finances and arrangements for children before a divorce order is granted.

□ The decree nisi and absolute will become one divorce order, to be applied for at the end of the cooling-off period.

□ If couples cannot agree on children and finances, they will be able to extend the time for a further 12 months, when the divorce process must start all over again.

□ Everyone seeking a divorce will be obliged to have an information briefing on a range of services, including marriage guidance, counselling, mediation and legal advice.

□ Mediation will have a central role. Everyone will be told about it but it will not be compulsory. Legal aid will be

available for marriage guidance or counselling.

□ Courts will not grant orders in cases where agreements are not reached over children and finances, although if one party is unreasonable and seeks to delay agreement, the courts can grant a divorce order anyway. They will not do so against a spouse's will if this would cause substantial hardship to children or to one of the couple.

□ Courts will have the power, as now, to take into account spouses' conduct when deciding how to divide property and finances.

In addition, the Government has been given the power to introduce regulations on pension splitting, although these will need separate legislation.



Lahilah Apia described her son Kalum as "my hero"

Kalum, 7, keeps cool to save life of mother

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE coolness of a seven-year-old boy saved his mother's life when she collapsed at home. Not only did Kalum Apia pass on exact details to paramedics, he also arranged for a babysitter to look after his brothers while their mother was in hospital.

Now Kalum is to receive a plaque from North Yorkshire Ambulance Trust, who said his mother owed her life to his prompt actions after she suffered a severe asthma attack at the weekend.

The boy had found Lahilah Apia, 34, in her bed gasping for breath and unable to move or speak. First he searched for her inhaler and, while she used it, telephoned for an ambulance from their home in Whitby, North Yorkshire, carefully describing the situation.

While he waited for the ambulance to arrive, Kalum telephoned a family friend to ask if she could care for his two younger brothers, Etan, five, and Taran, one.

Mrs Apia said: "Kalum saved my life, he's my hero."

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Hospitals are at full stretch, says survey

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE NHS is experiencing its strongest pressure since the introduction of reforms five years ago, the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said yesterday. A rise in emergency admissions was said to be pushing hospitals to the limits of capacity.

A survey of 30 NHS trusts and 19 health authorities found increases ranging from 3 to 15 per cent a year, resulting in severe bed shortages, delays to operations and long waits on trolleys.

The ageing population and advances in medical science have added to the pressures. The survey found that new geriatric outpatient cases rose by more than 12 per cent in 1993-94. The average cost of an episode of geriatric care was £2,673 compared with £991 across all acute specialties.

Philip Hunt, director of the association, said yesterday that the pressures could cause waiting lists to lengthen as the NHS struggled to match the rise in demand with a modest growth in funding of 1.1 per cent in real terms. He said: "The survey confirms that very difficult choices are having to be made. While waiting lists will fall or remain on an

even keel in many places, in some parts of the country they are threatening to slip back."

Speaking to the association's annual conference in Harrogate, Mr Hunt attacked critics who claimed that the country could no longer afford fully to fund the NHS: "This would imply the notion of a comprehensive NHS being eventually displaced by a second-rate safety net service for the poor and needy. I don't share that view."

"It is not impossible to fund the NHS properly out of the public purse. I am convinced that economic growth and rising productivity mean that the nation should be able to afford a good deal more health care in the future."

Two junior doctors have found they walk an average of 6.8 miles during a 24-hour shift on call. Dr Nicholas Jones and Dr Dyfed Hughes wore pedometers for a month-long study at the modern Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan. Dr Jones, 28, said: "Walking between departments and wards is like getting in training for a marathon. We would like planners and managers to think more about layout."

From exhaust to happy exhaustion



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Ten years ago, it is possible that a doctor caught in a traffic jam in the type of weather we have been enjoying would remember that one of the foul gases he was inhaling was nitric oxide. Nitric oxide, the nitrogen monoxide of chemistry classes at school — and not nitrous oxide, the dentist's laughing gas — is one of the pollutants emitted from car exhausts. Apart from the dangers of this, it was not thought to be of clinical significance, for its therapeutic importance had not then been investigated.

Now, in the best medical circles, nitric oxide is a very fashionable compound and scientists from many different branches of medicine are investigating its properties, both good and bad.

Today when doctors sit in the traffic inhaling the fumes, they should remember that nitric oxide may hold the key to the treatment of impotence in men and may improve the sex lives of women.

An indication of the widespread importance of nitric oxide is that the Royal Society of Medicine held a two-day conference on its clinical implications last week. Four medical knights and one dame chaired the different sessions to discuss the relevance of nitric oxide to cardiology, haematology, obstetrics, immunology, chest diseases and the central nervous system. There seems to be no branch of medicine in which its role may not be of therapeutic importance.

In human tissue, nitric oxide acts as a chemical messenger, and its chief action is as a vasodilator, improving the blood supply. It has obvious implications in venereology, and the latest edition of the BMJ included a report from Egypt on the trial of a cream used in the treatment of impotence which contains three substances, one of which, isosorbide dinitrate, generates nitric oxide when absorbed. The other two creams used different biochemical pathways to improve penile blood supply.

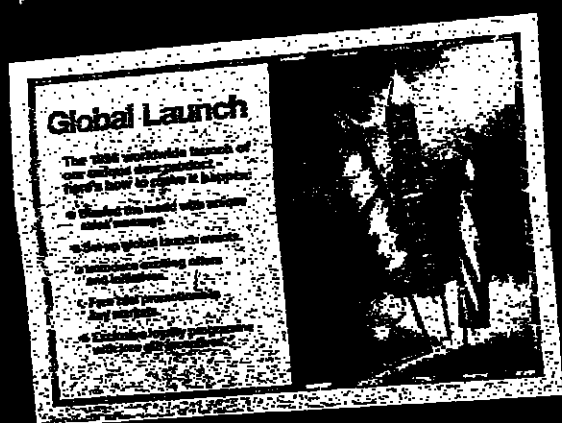
The Egyptian doctors carried out a randomised, double-blind trial to check the efficacy of their cream in comparison with a placebo when used by 36 impotent men. Sixty-six per cent — 21 of the men in the trial — had satisfactory erections and sexual intercourse when using the cream.

The Egyptians are not the only doctors who have been experimenting with creams for impotence. Dr Malcolm Carruthers, who practises in London, has devised a mixture which contains similar ingredients, but his also includes testosterone. He is still conducting trials, but describes his initial results as encouraging.

One unexpected feature reported by Dr Carruthers is that, as some of the cream is absorbed by the women, their enjoyment is also enhanced. Dr Stuttford was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours and not MBE as reported last week.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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National Gallery Rubens is put to the tree-ring test

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Gallery has agreed to a scientific test of one of its prized paintings, Rubens's *Samson and Delilah*, after a group of artists challenged its attribution. On both stylistic and documentary evidence, they argued, it is a copy by one of the many assistants in the master's workshop rather than the master himself.

They called for the gallery to undertake a dendrochronological test — testing the age of the wood rings in the panel on which it is painted. The test can pinpoint the year when a tree was cut down and has already caused two scholars to "de-attributed" two other sup-

posed Rubens in Vienna. The rings on which *Samson* is painted could establish its date later than its perceived date of 1609. The gallery's decision to carry out the test comes four years after the group made the request. The gallery had insisted that tests were unnecessary since neither the date nor the provenance was in doubt.

Euphrosyne Doxiadis, an artist and award-winning scholar, and painters Steven Harvey and Sian Hopkinson — who have devoted many years of research to the Rubens — refused to give up. Their case was strengthened by dendrochronology tests on the paintings in the Vienna

Kunsthistorisches Museum. The portraits of the Archduke Albert and his spouse Isabella of The Netherlands were said to have been painted in 1609.

The revised dating, to 1618, convinced the Dutch scholar Arnout Balis and Walter Liedtke, curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, that the pictures were the work of the young Jacob Jordaens, who was greatly influenced by Rubens.

Christopher Brown, the gallery's chief curator, told *The Times* that he would agree to the test "if it will put the matter to rest". He will invite Peter Klein of the University of Hamburg, an expert in the tests, to inspect the painting when he visits London.

The artists discovered that the *Samson* was attributed to Rubens only in 1929. For 237 years, from 1692, it was always described as a copy after Rubens. For 180 years, it was in the collection of the Princes of Lichtenstein. Each of three inventories (1767, 1780 and 1873) warns: "Do not attribute this painting to Rubens."

They argue that the painting is "awkward", primarily in the way that Samson's right foot has been sliced off: they see no valid reason for why Rubens should have distorted its proportions so clumsily. That view is supported by Michael



Samson and Delilah, which scholars believe was not painted by Rubens but by an assistant in his workshop

Reynolds, an award-winning member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, who suggests the hand of Jordaens. Scholars, the artists believe, are conveniently omitting contradictory evidence.

The painting was acquired in 1980, for £2.5 million. For centuries before that, it was attributed to a minor Rubens follower, Jan van den Hoecke. Rubens was commissioned to

paint a *Samson and Delilah* between 1608 and 1609. His client was Nicolaas Rockox.

The painting hung in Rockox's salon until his death in 1640. Its last documented reference is to that year in Rockox's inventory. Then nothing, until 1929, when the present panel was proclaimed by a single scholar as the missing Rubens.

Wolfgang Prohaska, a cura-

tor at the Kunsthistorisches, is convinced that his museum's works are by Rubens. Of *Samson and Delilah*, he said: "It's absurd. This is one of the most wonderful masterworks."

He insisted that the dismissal of it through the centuries meant nothing: "Rubens scholarship developed from the late 19th century." Asked why Rubens would have sliced off a foot, he said:

"Rubens was a wonderful painter. Sometimes he didn't care."

Michael Daley, director of Artwatch UK, which has been highly critical of the National Gallery's restoration policies, said that if the gallery's attribution were incorrect, "they are doing an enormous disservice to Rubens".

Art, page 40

Credit card firms 'fail to admit liability'

BY ADRIAN LEE

CREDIT card companies are accused today of routinely breaking the law by failing to disclose to customers their rights to compensation if they receive poor services or buy faulty goods. The National Consumer Council has called for a new code of practice to prevent people being misled.

Customers are frequently told to complain to retailers, when it is the credit card company that is liable to pay compensation, says the council in a report published today.

David Hatch, the council's chairman, said: "If a customer has lost out because their credit card was accepted by a holiday company about to go bust, or a shop selling faulty goods, the card issuer is as much to blame as the retailer. But at the moment claimants are fobbed off unless they can quote the law and have the support of a consumer adviser."

The council believes the code of banking practice should be extended to cover credit card companies, and the Office of Fair Trading should be given stronger powers to impose sanctions. The lower limit on claims of £100 should be abolished, it adds.

Under the 1974 Consumer Credit Act customers can claim losses back from either the retailer or the credit card issuer. Mr Hatch said: "Issuers should only let their cards be accepted by reputable retailers and be accountable for any failures."



Tests cast doubt on Archduke Albert, left. Now Christopher Brown is to have *Samson* checked

Buyer wanted for castle where victors of Culloden stayed

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE castle from which the Duke of Cumberland set out for the Battle of Culloden 250 years ago is for sale for the first time in its history.

The Duke mustered his 8,000 government troops in the grounds of Dalcross Castle and marched the Redcoats to victory over Bonnie Prince Charlie and his 4,000 Highland clansmen. The battlefield is two miles from the five-storey castle.

The Grade A listed building, eight miles east of Inverness, has been put on the market at £842,500. It is being sold by Angus Warre, a third cousin of the Mackintosh family who have owned the castle since the early 18th century.

Mr Warre inherited the castle from his mother, a Mackintosh, ten years ago. But he and his wife, Sophie, an interior designer, have been able to use it only as a holiday home from their base

in Petersfield, Hampshire, and they have therefore decided to sell.

The stone pile, with views over the Moray Firth, has angled turrets and crenellated gables. It was built in 1621 by the 8th Lord Lovat, clan chief of the Lovat Frasers. A century later it passed to the powerful neighbouring family of Mackintosh of



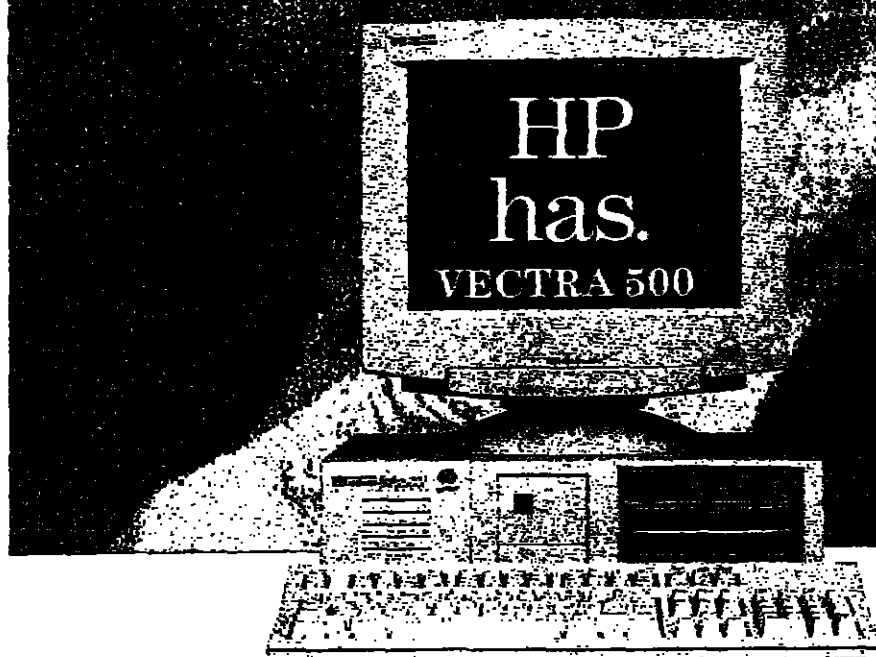
Dalcross Castle

Mackintosh, hereditary chiefs of the clan Chattan. The castle has a 749-acre estate, which includes 218 acres of commercial conifer forest, three let farms of nearly 500 acres and 67 acres of vacant farmland of mixed arable and livestock. There is ten and a half acres of woodland and a two-acre paddock.

The castle has a great hall, master bedroom suite, ten other bedrooms, three bathrooms, a dining room, library, and other offices and rooms. The sale is being handled by Langley-Taylor of Edinburgh. The four-star Culloden House Hotel, an 18th-century mansion which was Bonnie Prince Charlie's headquarters the night before he was forced to flee from the battlefield, was sold earlier this month by a local family to an American company for a reputed £3 million.

Homes, page 36

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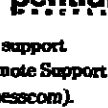
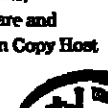
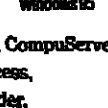
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Blunkett threatens to woo Tory rebels on vouchers

By JOHN O'LEARY AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR threatened yesterday to enlist dissident Tory MPs to wreck the Government's plans for an expansion of pre-school education unless ministers agree to negotiate an alternative to nursery vouchers.

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, offered a bipartisan approach after the House of Lords dealt a potentially fatal blow to the voucher scheme on Monday. Peers voted through an amendment to the nursery education Bill to ensure that ministers report to Parliament on trial voucher schemes before extending them nationwide.

The voucher scheme, which offers parents of four-year-olds £1,100 towards the cost of place in a private or state nursery, got under way in April in Norfolk and the London boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. But Mr Blunkett said that national implementation, planned for April 1997, would be "mayhem". He added: "We don't want to pick up mayhem."

He challenged Gillian

Shepherd, the Education Secretary, to join Labour in creating a new scheme — without vouchers — which would use all available money to create new places. "Unless Mrs Shepherd takes up our offer, we will rally every Tory dissident in a four-line whip to defeat the Government."

Mr Blunkett said that without vouchers John Major's dream of a nursery place for every four-year-old whose parents want one could be realised. He went on: "The Government has dissidents on its side who don't believe the voucher scheme is acceptable. There is nothing to lose now for various individuals who have burned their boats with the Government on other matters. We could rally them behind us in a victory for common sense."

Mrs Shepherd accused Labour of "playing games with children's lives" and said that the Government planned to go ahead with its plans. "It is a cynical attempt by the Labour Party to wreck an initiative which widens choice for parents. As usual they are em-

ploying the old socialist trick of denying others those opportunities which so many of them and their children enjoy."

She is understood to be considering trying to begin the evaluation before the pilot schemes are completed, enabling the vouchers to be offered nationally in April as planned. But MPs said that the Government would commit political suicide if it tried to rush through a national scheme.

Tories warned the Government that the introduction of a national scheme could be highly damaging if it coincided with the general election. Three former Tory ministers are among the party's backbench critics of the scheme. One Tory MP said: "We must accept the Lords change and make a virtue out of necessity. If we are re-elected then we can introduce the scheme on the basis of proper evaluation, rather than rush through flawed changes."

Among the Tory critics are the former ministers Sir Malcolm Thornton, chairman of

the Commons Education Select Committee, George Walden and Nigel Forman. They will each need convincing that a national scheme should be introduced before the pilot has been completed and assessed. Other Tories who have demanded full evaluation of the pilot scheme first are Iain Mills, David Sumberg and Sir Donald Thompson.

Ministers accused peers of wanting to rob parents of the power to exercise choice and claimed that the voucher scheme was already creating new nursery places.

Mrs Shepherd said: "While we naturally take careful note of the vote in the House of Lords, the scheme is firmly set on course for national implementation. Delaying the introduction of the scheme would prevent half a million children and their parents enjoying the benefits of the choice offered through the voucher scheme."

Critics of the voucher scheme say that it will disrupt local authority nursery provision and waste millions of pounds on bureaucracy.



Carey prepares Lords 'sermon' on moral values

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Archbishop of Canterbury is so concerned about declining public morality that he is to initiate an unprecedented full-day debate on it next month.

Dr George Carey will give warning that unless people return to old-fashioned Christian values society will crumble. He will say that morality has been privatised and individuals now feel no compunction to act for the benefit of the community. Instead they are greedy and cynical.

The debate will "call attention to the importance of society's moral and spiritual well-being and in particular to the responsibility of schools". Dr Carey will criticise the Government for focusing too much on arguments about how to teach children mathematics and English while too little time has been spent on ethics.

He is evidently also angry that the Church's views on the controversial Family Law Bill, which has just been passed in the Commons, were not taken more seriously and he was not properly consulted on the divorce issue.

After five years as Archbishop of Canterbury, he is determined to raise his profile, especially after moves by both John Major and Tony Blair to claim the moral high ground for their parties.

With the Tories being attacked for sleaze and Mr Blair insisting that the Bible taught him that he could never be a

"self-interested" Tory. Dr Carey believes that it is his turn to have a say.

The debate will be held on July 5, just before the General Synod, and will enable Dr Carey to make it clear that he is prepared to weigh into politics. He will also emphasise that he is speaking for all denominations.

Many peers are sceptical about the debate. One Liberal Democrat said: "This will just be one, boring sermon from the archbishop but there is nothing we can do to stop him if he wants to navel gaze. Then we will get all the right-wing peers ranting about bringing back hanging and sex education in schools. It will be a self-indulgent farce. Morality should be left to individuals' consciences."

Right-wing Tories welcome the debate. They want to bring up pornography on television, the lottery and the dangers of violent video films. Other peers have already booked the dining room for lunch, determined to make a day of it, invite a guest and pick up their daily allowance of over £139.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: backbench debates: trade and industry questions; debate on sentencing policy; Northern Ireland Act (Interim Period Extension) Order; backbench debate on availability of environmental information. In the Lords: Hong Kong (War Wives and Widows) Bill; Bill, commencing; Treasury Bill; committee: Housing Bill; committee: Standard Airport Aircraft Movement Limit (Amendment) Order.

Why Blair should condemn futile beef row policy

Tony Blair is being too clever by half. In Bonn yesterday he promised a fresh start for Britain in Europe. But this has been contradicted by his handling of the beef dispute. Labour's equivocal support for the Government's policy of non-cooperation smacks of the pseudo-patriotism and opportunism of Harold Wilson at his worst.

Labour has been trying to have it both ways, criticising the Government and wrapping itself in the flag over non-cooperation. Mr Blair argued that "the entire British national interest is now engaged in trying to secure an agreement for the lifting of the ban by the Florence summit. Whatever our concerns, as a responsible Opposition, we will not undermine that national interest". But that is bogus. It confuses ends and means. Of course, it is in Britain's interest for the ban to be lifted as soon as possible. But the non-cooperation policy is a negotiating tactic. It is not like sending troops into military action which can legitimately be described as a "national interest". It has made easing of the ban harder rather than easier.

The Opposition wants to be able to criticise any likely outcome of the Florence summit. Mr Blair has repeatedly pressed for a timetable for lifting the ban — as have sceptics such as John Redwood. But that has never been one of the Government's demands and is highly unlikely to be part of any EU deal. By pressing this case, Labour is putting a further obstacle in the way of lifting the ban.

Mr Blair's advisers dismiss these criticisms, almost delighting in the comparisons with Wilsonian deviousness. They argue that if Mr Blair had criticised the blocking tactics, the Tories would have attacked Labour as unpatriotic, undermining the British case and the like. As it is, his advisers claim that Labour cannot lose. It can criticise Mr Major either if he fails to agree a deal at Florence or for producing an inadequate package. There is even talk of Labour and the Tory sceptics uniting to bring down the Government on the issue, though that is improbable. But these advisers confuse

short-term tactics and long-term strategy. Mr Blair has always prided himself on his candour and unwillingness to fudge. But he risks compromising this image by his ambivalence on beef. He should have argued that the real national interest would now best be served by reaching agreement with the rest of Europe over lifting the beef ban — not antagonising other countries by pursuing a futile and counter-productive policy of non-cooperation. That would have been consistent with the rest of his Bonn speech.

Mr Blair has much in common with the Tory pro-Europeans: preserving the national veto on defence, immigration and strategy changes; expressing cautious support for a single currency to see if it can be made to work; and praising the virtues of free and open markets against competition from outside the EU. His emphasis on a flexible labour market and his warning about the impact of regulations and non-wage costs will not please the unions, though he begged the question of how far this can be squared with signing the social chapter. His emphasis was very different from Robin Cook's Chatham House speech a fortnight ago, which embraced the expensive "social Europe" of Continental parties.

This represents a genuinely "new" Labour approach both to Europe and economic policy. As he argued, domestic policy choices are constrained and solutions adopted by Right and Left may often overlap. The real dividing line may be more between those who respond to global change by urging isolationism and protectionism and those who believe in internationalism and engagement. Mr Blair has damaged this case, and his claims to be a new style of leader, by his short-sighted manoeuvring over beef.

PETER RIDDELL

Britain halts 75 decisions

BRITAIN has blocked 75 substantive measures in Brussels since the Government began its policy of non-cooperation with the European Union over the ban on British beef. (James Landale writes).

According to a written Parliamentary answer, ministers and diplomats have refused to endorse a wide variety of measures in Brussels since May 22, including plans to combat racism and fight fraud within the EU budget. Many

of the blocked moves concerned regular European business such as ministers agreeing a common position on a particular subject, planning future summits, or simply deciding to carry out a course of action.

Some measures were important, others were less so, including decisions on whether or not to send EU observers to the Mongolian elections or whether VAT should be imposed on cut flowers.

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Arabs warn of war as Netanyahu picks team

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, unveiled his right-wing Government yesterday amid squabbles in his Likud-led coalition and warnings of war across the Arab world.

He named 16 Cabinet members, but failed to resolve the problem of what post, if any, to give Ariel Sharon, the veteran Likud hawk and architect of election victory.

Mr Netanyahu was forced to take three extra portfolios — Foreign Affairs, Housing and Religious Affairs — temporarily into his own hands, as one of his main right-wing allies, David Levy, refused to take over the Foreign Ministry until Mr Sharon is given a role.

Mr Levy later held talks with Mr Netanyahu, and Likud officials were hoping for a solution to the dispute before the Knesset's vote of confidence in the new government, last night.

The ministers named were drawn from a coalition of the Likud bloc with three religious parties and two centre-right groups which together hold a comfortable 66-seat Knesset majority. Other leading Cabinet members include Yitzhak Mordechai as Defence Minister, Dan Meridor as Finance Minister, and Avigdor Kahalani as Internal Security Minister. All are considered moderates in the right-wing camp.

Mr Netanyahu appealed for the reopening of unconditional peace talks with Arab states. As he addressed the Knesset over repeated angry interventions by one of the few

Israeli Arab deputies, Jewish settlers called for the number of Jews in the occupied territories to be tripled to nearly 500,000 over the next four years of rule by the Likud coalition.

Heralding a new era in the Middle East, Mr Netanyahu pledged a very different approach from the "land for peace" policies which won his Labour predecessor, Shimon Peres, the Nobel Peace Prize. Instead, he told deputies, the emphasis would be on security, with the freeze on settlement-building in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip ended.

Addressing Syria, Lebanon and other Arab states, the ninth and youngest ever Israeli Prime Minister said: "Let us conduct direct negotiations for peace: negotiations that will carry the Middle East to an era of stability and prosperity, negotiations without preconditions."

Mr Netanyahu said: "That is the key — there are no preconditions. Each side can present its concepts and positions without forcing the other side to accept these conditions in advance. We can reach a real peace with our neighbours."

He emphasised that the security of Israel must be inherent in any accord, which must achieve "a stable and viable peace, not a passing and temporary agreement". The tough guidelines of his new Government infuriated many Arab states and led Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, to say: "Expanding settlements, annexing Jerusalem, not withdrawing from the Golan Heights are requirements for peace destruction, not peace-making." Abu Ala, a close aide to Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, described the guidelines as "a declaration of war".

The outgoing Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, delivered a passionate plea to his successor not to freeze the peace process, and to meet Mr Arafat.

Reporter held: Israel has confirmed that it is holding Ali Dia, a Lebanese reporter who works for the French news agency, Agence France-Presse (AFP), and that he has been interrogated over possible links to Hezbollah.



□ YAAKOV NEEMAN, Justice Minister: an Orthodox Jew, who handled the business dealings in the Jewish state of the late British media tycoon Robert Maxwell. Aged 54, he has been linked with the National Religious Party for many years. He is likely to be called on to mediate between secular and religious Jews because he is trusted by both sides. A former director-general of the Finance Ministry, a position he held from 1979 until 1981, he is a specialist in corporate, financial, and tax laws. He is, therefore, likely to be called on to advise the Government on the reform and repeal of laws to create an economy that is more based on private enterprise. Mr Neeman is married, with six children, and lives in Jerusalem in the Jewish quarter of the Old City.



□ NATAN SHARANSKY, Minister of Trade and Industry: has proved his mettle by securing concessions for the 600,000 new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. They are the backbone of support for the Israel Bealija Party he founded this year. Mr Sharansky, 48, the best known former Soviet Jewish *refusenik*, set up the party on the tenth anniversary of his release from Moscow's Lefortovo prison in an East-West spy swap. He is likely to prove one of the most charismatic members of the Cabinet, where he will fight hard for the social issues in his platform. He is a friend of Benjamin Netanyahu, shares his views on security issues and is certain to prove one of the strongest bulwarks in the Government against excessive demands by the religious parties.



□ YITZHAK MORDECHAI, Defence Minister: Kurdish-born, he is in the classic mould of soldier turned politician. As the only general to head all three army commands — Northern, Southern and Central — he has experience of most security problems. Popular with his men, but less so among senior officers, he was Benjamin Netanyahu's chief campaign organiser. His gesture in joining Likud two months after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination was much appreciated by the rank and file. Awarded the Medal of Valour in the 1973 war, his courage is undeniable, but he has been accused of lacking original strategic thought and is noted for what the *Jerusalem Report* called "an almost childish inability to accept criticism".



□ DAN MERIDOR, Finance Minister: left-leaning member of the Likud Party and one of the most talented men on the front bench. A friend of Yossi Beilin, one of the outgoing Labour architects of the peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Some observers here argue he has more in common with Labour than Likud, despite being regarded as one of the leading "princes" in his party. A lawyer aged 48, he first came to prominence as Minister for Justice under the late Menachem Begin. It was in this role that he became regarded as too liberal by many of his Likud colleagues because of his concern for human rights, especially in the Palestinian territories and for the rule of law. Many would have been happy to see him in charge of peace talks.



Netanyahu: "We can reach a real peace"

Panama rejects drug allegations

By DAVID ADAMS

MORE than six years after American troops invaded Panama to oust Manuel Noriega, the drug-trafficking dictator, the Government of Panama is again facing accusations of links to the drugs trade.

The scandal has strained relations at a delicate stage in talks over a possible extension of the American military presence in Panama. Angry Panamanian officials have rejected the allegations as part of a disinformation campaign to smear the Government of President Balladarez, a former political ally of Noriega, who is in a Miami jail. Some officials have likened the affair to events in Colombia, where President Samper has been fighting accusations that his party was funded by drug traffickers.

The Panamanian charges stem from the collapse in January of a politically well-connected bank, Banaico, with debts of more than \$50 million (£33 million) to swindled depositors. Investigations have since disclosed that the bank was deeply involved in laundering money for Colombia's Cali cocaine cartel. One of the bank's senior officers was a leading figure in the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, and an important contributor to Senator Balladarez's 1994 election campaign.

American officials say they are worried by what they describe as the high level of corruption in Panama, lax banking and corporate regulations, weak customs controls, and a growing domestic drug abuse problem. "There's so much money laundering in Panama, it's hard to know where to start," said Robert Gelbard, the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics

feared Panama would be vulnerable to drug trafficking after US troops leave.

"Panama has to think of its future. The US will reduce its presence and if one considers that the American military presence has had a dissuasive effect on drug cartels, one has to ask oneself what will happen to Panama?" he said.

Under the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty, the United States is due to hand over the 52-mile inter-oceanic waterway on December 31, 1999. Related deals call for the closure of American military bases, including the Southern Command HQ, the nerve centre of all US military operations in Latin America.

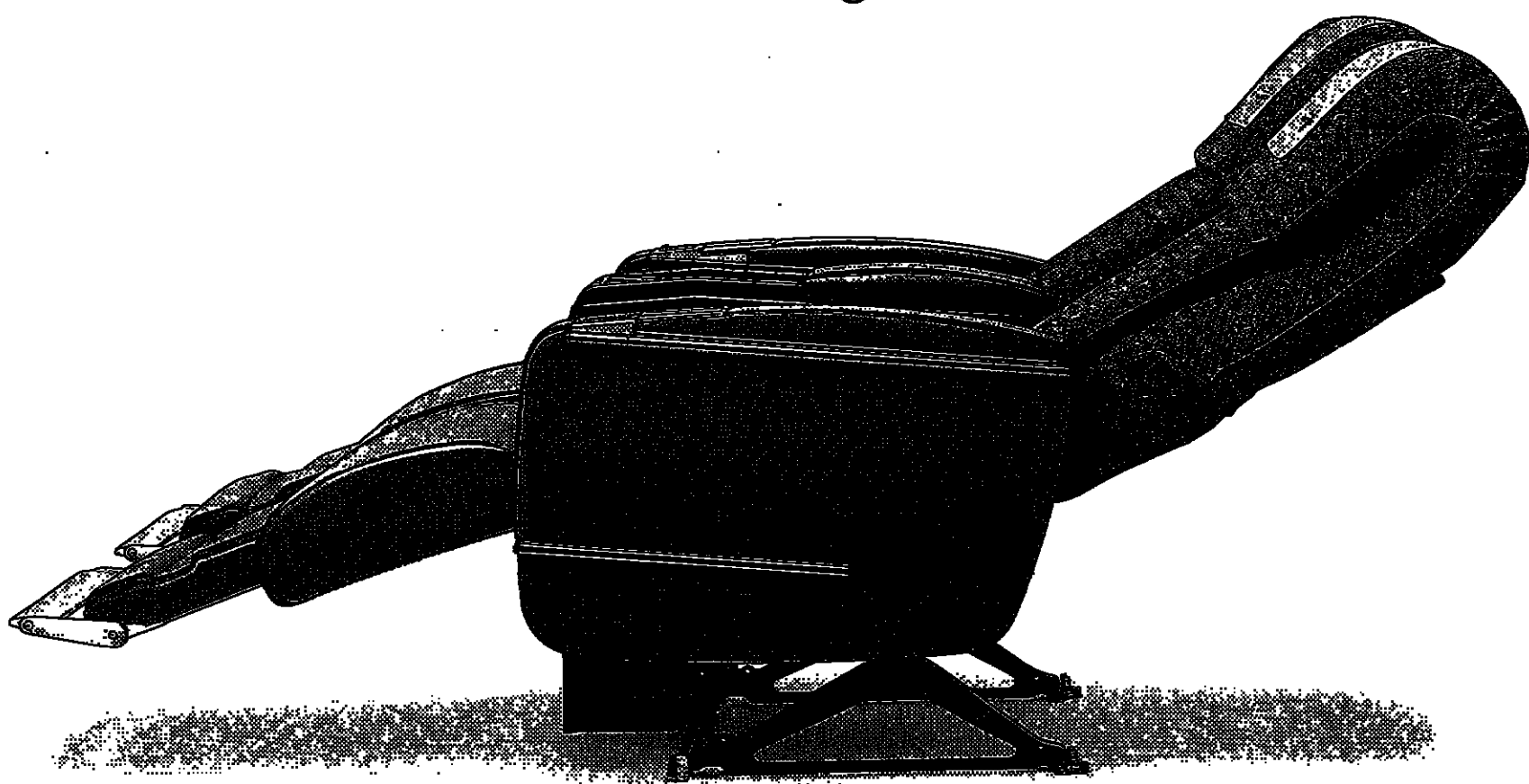
About 25 per cent of the area has already reverted to Panama, including two military bases last year. By the time the Southern Command closes next summer, there will be 4,400 American troops, a reduction of more than 50 per cent since 1992.

While there has been talk of extending a limited American military presence after 1999, formal negotiations have been stalled by political and financial considerations.

Talk about a lingering American presence stirs Panamanian feelings of nationalism. The United States has played an influential role in local politics since 1903, when President Roosevelt engineered Panama's independence from Colombia. American troops came to Panama as part of the project to build a canal that would link the Atlantic and Pacific trading routes. They stayed on after the canal opened in 1914, justifying their presence as necessary to protect international commerce, first from Germany and its allies in the Second World War, and then from the threat of Soviet

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Blair courted by Kohl as leader of modern Left

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, gave the most important signal yet that he has transferred his affection from John Major to Tony Blair by giving the Labour leader an 85-minute audience.

Mr Blair's 24-hour trip to Bonn was remarkable for the way in which not only Herr Kohl but the whole German political establishment courted a man who has yet to win a general election. President Herzog discussed Europe with him for an hour; top businessmen thronged to his apartment as he delivered the Labour line on European monetary union; the Social Democrats fêted him as the leader of the modern Left.

"The fact Blair as Opposition leader was received by both the President and the Chancellor has caused a stir among political observers," said the *Berliner Zeitung*. "Government circles say he is already being regarded as Major's successor and that explained the unusual interest in him."

Opposition leaders rarely see the Chancellor — Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian presidential candidate, was snubbed only last month — and if they do make it, they are granted between 35 and 45 minutes. Such was the case of Lionel Jospin, the French So-

cialist. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, was recently granted 45 minutes.

There has been a significant shift in German attitudes towards Labour since the last Blair visit just over a year ago. Then the Labour leader set out his European credentials at the Social Democratic think-tank and met the Chancellor for a short session.

Mr Blair was determined on that occasion to show he was not prepared to surrender British positions on the national veto: the Chancellor was careful to praise Mr Major as "thoughtful and clever".

This time there has been no public reference at all to the Prime Minister, who seems to have flickered in and out of the Bonn talks like Banquo's ghost. And while Mr Blair indicated that he was not going to be pushed around by the Germans over beef (on which he presented sharper conditions than those of the Government), his European repertoire — from the social chapter to monetary union — pleased the Chancellor.

"Kohl is coming to see Blair as the new Felipe González," said a senior German official. "It is already obvious that he will fill a gap."

Señor González was of a different generation from Herr Kohl and had funda-

mentally different politics, but he rarely disappointed the German leader. It is by no means clear that Mr Blair will be as easy a partner.

The kinship between the Chancellor and European Socialists — Wim Kok of The Netherlands, Jacques Delors, the late François Mitterrand, Señor González, the Italian Centre-Left — is not merely a matter of personal chemistry. The Kohl vision of Europe seems naturally attuned to European social democracy. That fact alone has robbed Germany's opposition Social Democrats of any coherent alternative to Europe.

The red-carpet treatment for Mr Blair is more than just a statement of disillusionment with the Major Government. It reflects a sea-change that has occurred in German politics. Herr Kohl, say insiders, has now decided to fight the 1998 general election.

The Chancellor believes his final historic mission of achieving monetary union is within his grasp and he is determined to be the man who introduced the single currency. That changes the context of his personal politics. As he told Mr Blair on Monday: "We need a Britain within Europe, just as Britain needs us."

Moreover, the chances are strong that Mr Blair will be Prime Minister when Britain holds the European presidency in the first half of 1998, the crucial period for monetary union. Mr Blair appeared in Bonn this week like a young man wanting to impress sceptical in-laws. Within 18 months, however, the relationship may well be differently weighted, leaving Herr Kohl — buffeted by popular opposition to monetary union — dependent on Mr Blair's help.

As on earlier missionary visits to Bonn — such as that of Gordon Brown last month — Labour's sister party, the Social Democrats, are sidelined. Oskar Lafontaine, their chairman, had to wait patiently until Mr Blair had finished with the Chancellor for a long-delayed meeting.



Relieved of command: General Grachev's departure will win "millions of votes"

Loyal Grachev sacrificed to rescue Yeltsin

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

DISMISSAL

THE way that Pavel Grachev clung to his post as Russia's Defence Minister became a saga that kept the country enthralled.

Widely reviled in the army, accused of corruption and responsible above all for military disasters in Chechnya, General Grachev, 48, had become Mr Yeltsin's longest-serving minister.

Aleksandr Lebed, the general turned politician who finally engineered his downfall, said: "Pavel Grachev is personally loyal. In our country that is the main thing."

The decision to dismiss him will be extremely popular in the military. "Yeltsin, by removing Grachev, is rewarded by the gratitude of the army with hundreds of thousands of votes," the political magazine *Izvestia* commented. "And then there are officers' families and conscripts and their parents. He will collect several million votes."

The general's survival was due to his complete devotion to his boss. On two occasions he rescued the President in dramatic circumstances. During the attempted coup of August 1991, the former paratrooper commander defied the orders of the leaders and backed Mr Yeltsin. For that

service he was made Defence Minister in May 1992. Then, during the bloody showdown with the opposition in October 1993, he agreed to use tanks to attack the parliament building.

But critics maintain the general's term in office was characterised by squalor and stagnation. Military reforms failed to take place, generals lined their pockets and conscripts went hungry, they claimed.

The Moscow newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, which conducted a sustained campaign against General Grachev, alleged that he and his cronies got rich during Russia's military withdrawal from Germany. It dubbed him "Pasha Mercedes", a label that stuck with him.

When Dmitri Kholodov, the *Moskovsky Komsomolets* reporter who investigated the story, died in a bomb explosion in October 1994 the calls began for General Grachev to resign. But President Yeltsin spoke up for him in the strongest terms, and called him "the best Defence Minister that Russia and the Soviet Union ever had".

Lebed becomes a force to be reckoned with

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEW ALLIANCE

A NEW political force was born in Russia yesterday after President Yeltsin appointed Aleksandr Lebed, a former army general and the third placed presidential candidate, to the post of National Security Adviser.

In a move which seemed certain to clinch the Russian leader's victory in his second-round re-election attempt next month, General Lebed agreed to serve under the President in return for a powerful new position as head of the Presidential Security Council.

The job will oversee the armed forces, the police and the internal security services, and General Lebed said he intended to broaden his powers to include fighting crime, reforming the army and cracking down on official corruption.

"This is the union of two politicians, two different programmes," said a

beaming President Yeltsin, who may be planning to groom his new ally as the heir to the Kremlin leadership. "Lebed's programme will enrich mine."

The 6ft, chain-smoking former paratrooper wasted no time in flexing his muscles, sacking his long-time rival General Pavel Grachev, the unpopular but loyal Defence Minister. He was replaced, for the time being, by General Mikhail Kolesnikov, the chief of staff.

General Lebed, 46, said he had thwarted an attempt by five pro-Grachev generals to stage a mutiny in the armed forces to intimidate the President.

Experts believe that President Yeltsin's alliance has clinched his victory in the second round run-off election early next month against

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader. Although the Kremlin chief finished only three points ahead of Mr Zyuganov, his re-election campaign is in a much stronger position to pick up new votes than the Communists.

General Lebed predicted that 80 per cent of his 11 million voters would support his decision to take up his new post, suggesting they would also back President Yeltsin.

Opinion polls taken before the new alliance showed that about 30 per cent of Lebed supporters would vote for President Yeltsin next time. More than half of those who voted for Grigori Yavlinsky, the liberal leader, and even a few of the supporters of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader, will also switch their support to the President.

Explaining his acceptance of the job, the Afghan War veteran said he was carrying out promises he made to restore order in Russia and prevent bloodshed. "I was facing two ideas — an old one that has shed lots of blood and a new one which is being implemented very badly at the moment but has a future," said the general, referring to the choice of backing the Communists or the reformers. "I have chosen the new idea."

The Communists could not disguise their disappointment, consoling themselves only by predicting that General Lebed's political career would be over before it had started. □ Yeltsin backed: Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of Kazakhstan, in effect backed Boris Yeltsin's re-election attempt yesterday by calling on Russian voters to support democracy and market reforms. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21



A view of strained Bonn ties with the British Government: "England gets ready for a final against Germany"

Leading article, page 21

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Afghan veteran turns his fire on 'pointless' wars

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN MOSCOW

AS FOR so many Soviet soldiers, the Afghan War was a key experience in the life of General Aleksandr Lebed. On the one hand, it set him on the path to first military, and now political, success. On the other, it began a process of disillusionment with Soviet communism, and indeed with politicians in general.

As a fighting officer in Afghanistan, General Lebed rose to command a paratroop battalion. Although he speaks of his service there and his unit with pride, the general, who is married, makes no effort to defend the Soviet intervention. "They sent us in there to kill and be killed with no preparation, no knowledge of the country, its society, culture or history, hardly even a proper map, and for no sensible or clear objective," he said. "It was a crime against the army and the men who died."

In recent years, General Lebed's anger over the Afghan debate has resurfaced in his opposition to Russia's military role in Tajikistan. As he said two years ago, during a flare-up of that conflict, "I cannot see why Russian soldiers are helping one group of Tajiks kill another. What if we change our mind and support the other side? What will our boys have died for?"

General Lebed was from the start a bitter critic of the war in Chechnya, which he has repeatedly compared to Afghan-



istan. His feelings stem less from a sympathy for the Chechens, whom he has described as "parasites", and more from an acute and accurate foreboding of the damage the war would do to Russia.

That has also been the position of the last Soviet commander in Afghanistan, General Boris Gromov, who is tipped to become Defence Minister. With General Lebed and General Gromov at the head of the armed forces, there might be some chance of a real commitment to withdraw from Chechnya. However, with regard to both Tajikistan and Chechnya, General Lebed may find what many critics of military intervention have found: that it is one thing to criticise from opposition, another to take responsibility for withdrawal and possible humiliation.

Afghanistan is also said to have seen the origins of General Lebed's personal dislike for General Pavel Grachev, who was his commander there. The story goes that General Grachev once deliberately kept him on duty for

three nights in succession to test or punish him.

If that is true, then with the removal of General Grachev as Defence Minister this week, General Lebed may be said to have got his own back. It remains for him to deal with what he sees as General Grachev's legacy of demoralisation, military corruption and decay. The demoralisation dates back to Afghanistan and has been aggravated by events in Chechnya.

Acute dislike among Russian officers of unnecessary and pointless military operations goes far beyond the two generals. A recent opinion poll of 600 Russian majors and colonels, commissioned anonymously by the US Livermore National Laboratory, indicated that big majorities not only opposed the future use of the military to suppress secessionist movements such as that in Chechnya, but even said they would refuse to obey such orders.

All this is far from the aggressive and expansionist Russian military; but it is backed by anti-militarist attitudes now current throughout Russian society and is closely linked to a passionate desire among most young men not to do military service. The origins of that sentiment also lie partly in the casualties and suffering of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Here, too, lie some of the roots of General Lebed's political appeal, for he combines the image of a tough, patriotic, disciplined soldier with that of a moderate and restrained commander who hates military adventures and unnecessary loss of life.

In many ways, this is rather close to the combination of attributes that made General Colin Powell seem an ideal candidate for President of the United States. The resemblance is not a coincidence. General Powell's generation of American officers became far more cautious and thoughtful about military operations as a result of their own particular wartime experience, as has often been said, Afghanistan was Russia's Vietnam.



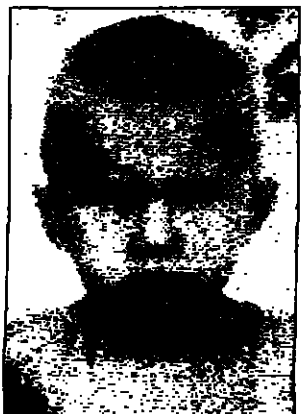
General Aleksandr Lebed at a pre-election meeting with his supporters. President Yeltsin yesterday appointed him National Security Adviser

Army strongman turns shining knight

FROM CAREY SCOTT
IN MOSCOW

IN RUSSIA, where men are expected to sleep around or drink themselves into oblivion, or both, General Aleksandr Lebed looks like a man who does neither. That could explain his unmistakable appeal for women voters.

Meet him in person and he immediately challenges you with his cold blue eyes, staring down from his imposing



The Russian election kingmaker as a child

height, daring you to hold his gaze. It is an amusement for him, a contest of wills. He always wins. You blush unprofessionally and avert your eyes.

Then there's the voice. Writers get carried away by this, his trademark. It is a deep bass cannon-boom—very low and measured, and chillingly sexy.

General Lebed, as everyone now knows, is the man of the moment, the kingmaker, the man who can decide who wins the Russian presidential election.

"Oooh, he's so honest," women say when they explain why 15 per cent of the population voted for him. Perhaps. I suspect the more likely reason is that with his rugged physique and quick banter, General Lebed has single-

WOMEN'S VOTE

handedly introduced some sex appeal to the Russian political forum. In a nation with a serious military hero culture, the girls always did like a man in uniform, and General Lebed is hardly heart-throb material.

Enter General Lebed—or Sasha, as he is known. In his last army posting, in Transdnestr, women lay down on the runway to try to stop his plane leaving when he quit. They said they feared war would break out if he left. That, the rest of the female population realised when they got a look at him, was just an excuse. The girls in Transdnestr just wanted him for themselves.

Russian women, surrounded by weak, drunken excuses for husbands, are captivated by his masterly air, and his decision to become teetotal—"so that at least one person in this country is sober".

But sobriety alone does not guarantee charm. It was his wife Inna's pre-election television interview that revealed the soft romantic behind his tough exterior. She was giggly and girly, and irritatingly pretty, and showed us cute pictures of Sasha cuddling the Old English sheepdog he loves so much. She looked like she actually loved him. And thousands of Russian women sighed and went to vote for their knight in shining armour.

Carey Scott is Moscow correspondent of The Sunday Times



Inna Lebed: on way to vote for her husband

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Italians reopen file on mystery of the Duce's death

The ghost of Mussolini returned to haunt Italy yesterday with the allegation that the dictator was shot not in an elegant villa by the partisan who later claimed the credit, but in a farmyard by Luigi Longo, a young Communist who went on to become head of the Italian Communist Party in the 1960s.

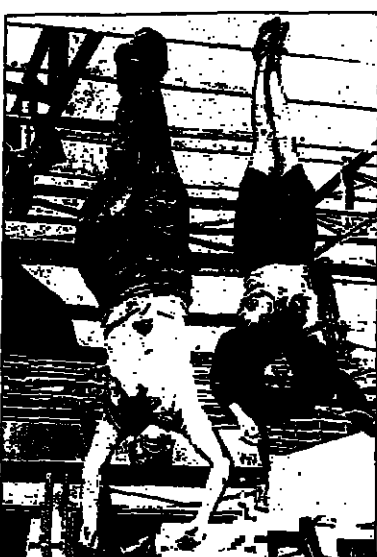
Italy is only now emerging from the legacy of fascism and communism, 50 years after the end of the war. In April, a centre-left Government was elected which included the Party of the Democratic Left or PDS, the former Communists, for the first time. On the right, the ideological heir of Mussolini's Blackshirts, the Alleanza Nazionale, has transformed itself into a "post-Fascist" conservative force.

But if Duce still has the power to stir controversy, Italians still point out the balcony in Rome from which he harangued the crowds. Above all, they remain obsessed with the manner of his death, which is still shrouded in mystery. There is no doubt that Mussolini and his mistress, Claretta Petacci, were captured on April 27, 1945, while trying to flee to Switzerland. They were shot the next day and strung up head down by piano wire from the roof of a petrol station in the Piazzale Loreto in Milan. According to the official partisan legend, they were killed by Walter Audisio, whose *nom de guerre* was Colonel Valerio, at a villa above Lake Como.

But in a book published yesterday Giorgio Pisano, a former neo-Fascist senator who has been investigating the Duce's death for 40 years, says that the killing took place not in the villa but in



Richard Owen reports from Rome on a new book about the mystery surrounding the death of Mussolini and his mistress in the Second World War's last days



Mussolini and his mistress hang head-down in Milan

a nearby farmyard, and that the man who pulled the trigger was not Colonel Valerio but Luigi Longo, a young Communist who headed the partisan Garibaldi Brigades. The partisan umbrella movement, the CLN (National

Liberation Movement), which included the Communists, had agreed to hand over Mussolini to the Allies alive. Signor Pisano says. But secretly the Communists wanted the Duce dead, fearing that if he was put on trial he would continue to rally Fascist opinion. Walter Audisio admitted the killing to protect Signor Longo, who went on to become a leading postwar politician.

Signor Pisano's account, *The Last Five Seconds of Mussolini*, draws on the testimony of Dorina Mazzola, now in her seventies, but who as a girl of 19 watched the early-morning drama from her window a few feet from the farmyard. Signora Mazzola says she heard shots as the partisans holding Mussolini captive fired at him inside the farmhouse. She then saw the bulky former dictator stagger into the yard, badly wounded, followed by his mistress, who was screaming.

According to Signora Mazzola, who says she has relived the "nightmare memory" every day since 1945, the partisans tied the former dictator to a stable door and shot him seven times until he fell dead into the manure. They then put a balaclava helmet over his head and pulled him out of the yard, with Petacci clinging to his legs as he was dragged along. Still screaming,

and clutching a boot she had pulled off Mussolini's body, she tried to make a run for it, but was also shot dead. The bodies were washed and taken to the nearby villa for a fake execution before being taken to Milan to be displayed upside down.

The Italian press joined leading historians yesterday in calling on PDS ministers, who include Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, to open the Communist Party archives to establish whether Signor Pisano's account is correct.

According to *The Last Five Seconds of Mussolini*, one of the partisans involved had an expensive camera round his neck, suggesting photographs may have been taken of the farmyard killing as well as of the piano-wire hangings in Milan.

Last year Urbano Lazzaro, the partisan who arrested Mussolini, said he believed the execution had been staged with corpses. Other accounts suggest that British special forces were involved and that Petacci was raped by partisans before being shot.

Angry Judge Agostino Quistelli, the presiding judge at the war crimes trial here of Erich Priebke, 82, the former SS captain, said yesterday that he was disgusted by allegations that he and a colleague on the bench were biased in favour of the German.

On Monday, Antonio Intelsiano, the prosecutor, demanded the dismissal of the three-judge bench in the face of charges that at least one of the panel had said at the start of the trial that the verdict had already been decided in Herr Priebke's favour. (Reuters)



Mussolini harangues Fascist followers outside his Rome headquarters in 1934

Jackie Kennedy 'had affair with film star'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

IMAGES of the late American First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, as a lonely, wronged wife may need to be revised after claims that she had an extramarital affair with William Holden, the film actor.

A forthcoming book will state that Mrs Kennedy, whose husband John Kennedy was a relentless philanderer, also strayed. Christopher Andersen, author of *Jack and Jackie*, cites Gore Vidal, who was close to the Kennedys, as saying that Jackie Kennedy told Holden as her lover during a "brief affair" in 1955. The Kennedys' marriage was two years old at the time and JFK was still the handsome (and roaming) senator from Massachusetts.

Mr Andersen also quotes a former Kennedy aide, Roswell Gilpatric, as confirming speculation that he comforted Mrs Kennedy during her White House years.

Gilpatric, who died this year aged 89, told the author that he and Mrs Kennedy "loved each other. She had certain needs, and I am afraid Jack was capable of giving only so much."

Gilpatric's funeral was attended by survivors of the Kennedy Administration and he was praised for his customary discretion. That is thought to be the first time he went so

far in discussing his relationship with the woman who set new standards for elegance in Washington. Previously, Gilpatric's friendship with Mrs Kennedy had been dated to the first years of her widowhood.

The allegations about Mrs Kennedy will be dismissed by some of her fans as needless smearing, but others may draw some comfort from the suggestion that she allowed herself some pleasures while her husband was so often playing away from home.

On the subject of the late President, meanwhile, Mr Andersen identifies another possible conquest for Mr Kennedy: the actress Audrey Hepburn, who an anonymous source in the book saw leaving the Kennedys' Georgetown home "very late at night" when Mrs Kennedy was out of town in the early Fifties.

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Burghers make mince of Canada geese

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

FEATHERS fluttered in a small town in upstate New York yesterday after officials acted decisively on a problem shared by much of Britain: what to do with the rising nuisance of Canada geese.

In Clarkstown, a normally quiet rural settlement, the local council rounded up a large number of the birds and packed them off to the slaughterhouse. In a few days' time, packages of free goose meat will be offered to the town's needy and elderly.

The decision has led to much squawking, not only from the doomed creatures but also from local fainthearts who criticised the council for "dangerous double standards". They said that the geese were "potentially tainted" and feared that "poor men, women and children will eat unregulated and uninspected flesh". A Coalition to Prevent the Destruction of Canada Geese was formed to co-ordinate protests.

The alternative view, more commonly held by the practical people of Clarkstown, is that the free goose meat will be welcomed by people who cannot normally afford such delicacies. They see the scheme as a sensible way of reducing the numbers of Canada geese, which have flourished to near plague proportions and which leave a foul mess on the village green, play areas and public pavements.

Charles Holbrook, the town supervisor, said he had expected some protests but that it made sense to feed hungry people with meat that would otherwise have been thrown away. To demonstrate his faith in the goodness of the meat, Mr Holbrook will himself be sitting down to a supper of geeseburgers.

Security scandal deals new blow to White House

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House, reeling from a barrage of criticism over Whitewater and "Travelgate", rapidly reshuffled its personnel security office yesterday and effectively dismissed the man responsible for improperly requesting FBI background files on hundreds of Republicans.

On the eve of congressional hearings into the scandal, Craig Livingstone, director of the personnel security office, was given administrative leave as the White House prepared to appoint a new security chief in his place.

The White House, facing increasing Republican and internal complaints about invasion of privacy and misuse of the agency, has been desperate to avoid further political damage for the Clintons at a time when a damning Senate report on Whitewater has caused a downward surge in the polls for the President.

Criticism has come not merely from Republicans but also from Louis Freeh, the FBI director. Last week Mr Freeh described the White House requisition in 1993 and 1994 of FBI background documents on more than 400 people who had worked in previous administrations as "egregious violations of privacy".

Congress and Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, begin today an investigation into the improper request for background checks. The White House has continued to portray the episode as an innocent bureaucratic mistake, in which legally protected background information was gathered on such Republican notables as James Baker, the former Secretary of State; Marlin Fitzwater, the former press secretary; and Tony Blankley, now the spokesman for Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker.

"We have seen nothing that contradicts that view," said one White House official, who denied that Mr Livingstone had been "disciplined". "But very clearly there is a need for a more senior management structure at the office."

There was little doubt, however, that Mr Livingstone, the

man at the heart of the controversy, was being distanced quickly from any connection to either the President or Mrs Clinton.

The Republicans, alluding to the bad old days of J. Edgar Hoover, are asking whether Mr Livingstone had harnessed the powers of America's foremost law-enforcement agency for political ends. They said Mr Livingstone was merely the latest in a long line of scapegoats for the Clintons.

"Obviously they are going to throw anyone to the wolves they can to protect the President and First Lady and then act like nothing has happened," Dan Burton, the Indiana Republican on the House government reform and oversight committee, said.

Mr Livingstone, who had worked on the 1992 campaign and the inauguration had no background in security before his appointment as director in 1993. His only previous experience, it seems, was as a restaurant bouncer, although he has since claimed that he was once a public relations man for a casino in Atlantic City.

During the campaign, Mr

ly. Once in office, however, he had quickly enlisted the temporary services of his old friend Anthony Marozca, a civilian sleuth with the Army's criminal investigation command, to help in processing the vast pile of security clearance forms at the White House. The FBI files built up and were stored for two years in a small safe behind the security chief's desk. Both men now have emerged as the central figures in the affair.

Those who know Mr Livingstone well, and refer to him patronisingly as Craig Flintstone, believe even he must have realised he should not have had the list, but continued to allow the files into the security office because of his love of intrigue and desperate need for acceptance.

Two years ago, Mr Livingstone said his main task was to remain unnoticed. "My job is to remain invisible," he said. "If I am around, something is wrong."

That certainly has been the case ever since. Mr Livingstone has been party to most of this Administration's bleakest moments. In May 1993, on the day that seven members of the Travel Office were dismissed, it was he who wrote the memorandum barring them entry to the White House. When Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel, was found dead in a park outside Washington, Mr Livingstone had accompanied William Kennedy, the associate counsel, to identify the body.

Two Secret Service agents have since said they saw him leaving the lift beside Foster's suite with a briefcase and box of documents, but Mr Livingstone has always denied he removed any notes from the office.

Although the White House has tried to portray Mr Livingstone as clueless, it is a picture that does not match one offered last week by Gary Aldrich, a former FBI agent who spent five years assigned to the White House. In an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, Mr Aldrich described Mr Livingstone as a man taking orders from above.



Livingstone has lost job

Livingstone was always the overweight advance man, weighed down by bleepers and walkie-talkies, whose saunter gave the impression he was in the Secret Service when in fact his job was to book hotels and ensure that campaign events ran smoothly.



Investigators search the charred wreckage of the Hills Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Rocky Point, North Carolina, for clues to the arson attack

American arson attacks claim four more churches

BY TOM RHODES

PRESIDENT CLINTON will meet governors of the Southern states in Washington today to debate his latest domestic crisis—a continuing arson epidemic that left a further four churches in flames within 24 hours.

Two black Mississippi churches only four miles apart were destroyed by fire in the early hours of yesterday morning while another two were razed in North Carolina and Georgia during the previous night.

FBI and arson specialists were called into the Mississippi hamlet of Kossuth to investigate the blazes at the Mount Pleasant and Central Grove Missionary Baptist churches but seemed unable to shed any light on what many suspect are more cases of racially inspired arson.

"We've got no eyewitnesses and no evidence," said James Cavanagh, an agent for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. "This is getting disturbing. It is getting disgusting."

Earlier, the Hills Chapel Missionary Baptist at Rocky Point, North Carolina, and the Pine Lake Baptist Church in Georgia, where the congregation is predominantly white, were destroyed by fire, adding to the growing caseload of nearly 40 church buildings that have been destroyed by fire in the past 18 months.

Mr Clinton, who has devoted much attention to the issue and visited the site of a burnt shell in South Carolina last week, issued another appeal.

"There is not another country in the history of the world that has valued religious liberty and values religious expression more than the United States," he said. "And this tears at the very heart of what it means to be American."

Volcano ash disrupts air travel

Wellington: Clouds of thick volcanic ash from Mount Ruapehu grounded planes, closed five New Zealand airports and caused travel chaos yesterday. The eruption shot red hot rocks and debris thousands of feet into the air and tremors were felt 25 miles away. Towns and farms downwind to the north were blanketed by ash, but neither injuries nor damage have been reported. (AP)

Bomber charge

Washington: Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, the reclusive former mathematics professor, has been charged as the Unabomber for four bomb attacks that killed two people and injured two others. (Reuters)

Call for curbs

Vienna: Jörg Haider, whose far-right party won nearly a quarter of the votes in December's general election, called for curbs on Muslim immigration, saying it threatened Austrian culture. (Reuters)

Laos clean-up

Bangkok: An American military team arrived in Laos to help to clear out bombs and other devices. Delayed explosions have killed or maimed thousands since American forces dropped them. (AP)

Refugees return

Monrovia: The *Zolotitsa*, a Russian trawler carrying about 400 Liberian and other African refugees, has returned to Monrovia after three weeks at sea. She was turned away by Ghana and Togo. (AFP)

Floods kill ten

Rabat: Six Moroccans, including a woman and her two children, and four French people died in storms and flooding in Morocco last weekend, MAP, the official news agency, said. (Reuters)

Talked down

Windhoek: A man threatening suicide by jumping from a crane outside Namibia's new Supreme Court was saved when officials promised him a meeting with Hage Geingob, the Prime Minister. (AFP)

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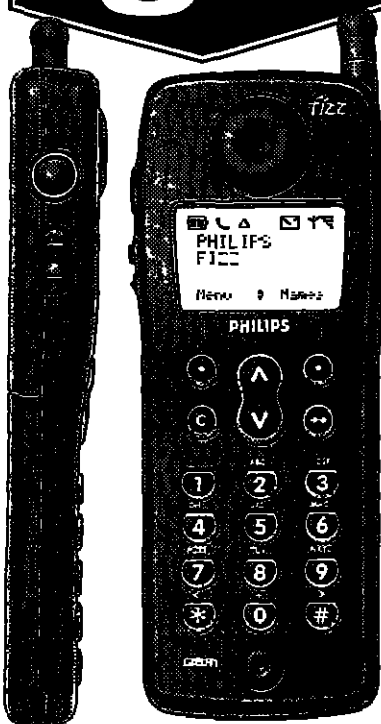
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The look isn't everything

Britain's young graduates should forget concepts and get back to the basics

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

IN THE 1970s, rock music gave us the concept album (who could forget groups such as Yes and Genesis?), and in the 1980s we were treated to conceptual art (remember those bricks). Now the 1990s offers conceptual fashion.

This year's crop of fashion graduates (the designers of tomorrow) who showed their end-of-course collections in London last week at Bhs Graduate Fashion Week — 25 catwalk presentations and exhibition space showcasing more than 1,000 students, culminating in a Gala Awards show — don't appear to be worrying about something as boring as clothes. For the most part, these young hopefuls are content to sell an idea, a mood, a look.

The cult of the fashion stylist is to blame. The stylists (a phenomenon which emerged during the style-obsessed 1980s) can flaunt their imagination on the pages of glossy magazines and even on the catwalks when employed by international designers to give their collections that certain look. A stylist can take a dress, turn it inside out, team it with a hat by Philip Treacy and shoes by Manolo Blahnik and call it cutting edge. They can also take an exquisite gown by a couturier and make it look cheap and nasty. All in the name of fashion. The designer must hold that thought, ponder it and file it away under "indulgent".

Being a designer is hard work: it requires a great amount of training and the acquisition of many skills, not least business acumen and self-restraint.

A large number of the students who showed during the week appear to be little more than frustrated stylists — for them the look is everything. Fine if they are happy to relinquish the title, and status, of designer, but why waste so much time, energy and money giving them the opportunity to do so on a catwalk?

There is another, more worrying problem. Nouveau tailoring appears to involve little knowledge and few skills. Many of the collections featured tortured fabric twisted into hysterical costume dramas or scary sci-fi designs.

The students should be encouraged to look at the body (through classes in life drawing). They should also be compelled to study both historical designers and examine the work of contemporary designers — and not just the trendy few. Too many



KAREN PHELPS: pretty party dresses given a spooky edge

bastardised versions of the clothes by Brit brat-pack designers Alexander McQueen, Hussein Chalayan and Owen Gaster appeared over and over again. Sad.

What is wrong with fashion education if it allows these students merrily to go on copying the work of existing designers with seam for seam precision? There must surely be a moment during their courses when the educators have the opportunity to point out this bad case of déjà vu. These young people should be encouraged to become individuals with fresh ideas which genuinely challenge rather than being content to be a second-rate McQueen. Even McQueen agrees.

There is some good news. Excitement was provided by those students who chose to design something new for men to wear. Perhaps the confines of the discipline provide a framework within which the fledgling designers

can work, while still giving them something to kick against. Menswear is primarily a package of components — the jacket, the shirt, a pair of trousers. It is then the importance of the cut, colour, and choice of fabric which can

make or break a garment. Detail counts.

Those students who really stood out kept it simple. They identified a market, created something to suit their own particular taste and style, and cleverly packaged it within an

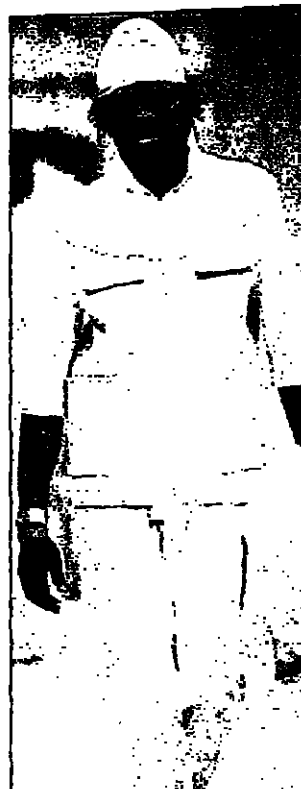
inch of manufacture. All they need now is for some canny businessman to approach them with a cheque book and sign on the dotted line.

A nice surprise at the Royal College of Art show was a glimmer of hope for the future:

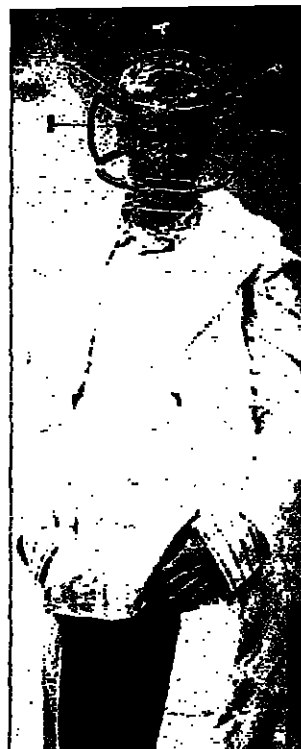
the collection of milliner Pip Hackett was dressed by first-year student Karsten Fielitz, who also won the Lagerfeld Prize with an elegant satin dress. Fielitz is a name to watch. Something to look forward to next year, I guess.



MARIA OSTROPOLSKI: carefully co-ordinated tailoring



TOMEK SOWACKI: clean lines



PETER HAWKINGS: future touch



KARSTEN FIELITZ: tomorrow person

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE

SIMPLY THE BEST

MENSWEAR

□ **ANDREW MOORE**, Middlesex University. (Bhs Menswear Award winner). Football crazy. Colour-blocked suits, matched trousers with "go-faster" stripes and V-neck slipover tops. Moore is definitely Man of The Match.

□ **ANDREW IBI**, Middlesex University. (Bhs Collection of the Year). Exquisitely tailored sombre suits in black, navy and grey, stolen from the wardrobe of Malcolm X.

□ **TOMEK SOWACKI**, Ravensbourne College. Added creamy fake fur collars on boxy coats worn over simply constructed tops. A touch of the future.

□ **NIC ROOME**, Royal College of Art. Showed an ultra-slim silhouette with some of the best shirts and sweaters, featuring lizard logos and swimming pool tile checks.

□ **JOSEPH GRIMES**, Royal College of Art. Offered a brightly coloured, slick look reminiscent of the heroes of Miami Vice.

□ **RICHARD CAPSTICK**, Central Saint Martins. Gave a fresh look to blazers, wide trousers and pull-on polo tops in dusty pastels and washed-out denim. Bad taste makes good.

□ **PETER HAWKINGS**, Middlesex University. Used maps as prints and lacquered paper for shirts and jackets. Bright and decidedly bold.

□ **KAREN PHELPS**, University of Northumbria (Bhs Womenswear Award winner). Used spooky china-doll styling for a range of delicate dresses in pale cotton and dulled satin. Ruffles, lace and Tibetan fur. Little jackets featured fur collars.

□ **MARIA OSTROPOLSKI**, University of Westminster. Mixed menswear-inspired tailoring with luxurious looking silk brocade dresses in a beautifully co-ordinated collection.

□ **SARAH WYATT**, Middlesex University. Showed shiny white jersey cut into long-line coats, worn over slimline dresses and flowing trousers.

□ **AMANDA LOUNT**, University of Central Lancashire. Layered chunky oatmeal knitted coats and cardigans over brocade anoraks and trousers. Everlast sheepskin coat thrown in.

□ **SHAIRON CHAN**, University of Brighton. Used light layers over dusty taffeta. Dresses feature unexpected slashes and dipping hemlines.

□ **ANDREAS MELBOSTAD**, Royal College of Art. Cleverly cut khaki leather acid lemon, lime and cream stretch into a long and lean silhouette.

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The new vulgarity is no joke

Strippagrams are almost a routine fixture at office parties these days, to the delight of the sniggering classes. But who really finds them funny?

I really think it is going a bit far to claim that having a strippagram manacle you to your office desk in full view of your taunting colleagues is to suffer the same trauma as a rape victim, but I concede that the difference is one of degree. It is, however, a crucial difference. Still, I shudder with sympathy for Gail Steele, who is trying to bring a case against her former employers for having organised, as an office jape, a male stripper to handcuff her, blindfold her and humiliate her in public.

My concern here, this time, is not so much whether such cases should be brought or what they say about society or the balance of power between the sexes but, rather, the nature of these ghastly japes themselves. Not so long ago it would have been inconceivable that a firm of opticians would arrange for a man to perform a striptease in their office, that he would be hired expressly to humiliate someone with licentious and overbearing sexual behaviour. Now it's all but routine.

We are all expected to find this funny. But this isn't so much a joke as an act of aggression. True, the two can often be one and the same thing, but that doesn't explain quite why coarseness has become so socially acceptable.

Vulgarity has become the norm. It would be foolish to pretend it is, in itself, anything new. This is, after all, the country of the kiss-me-quick hat and the saucy seaside postcard. But the new vulgarity is different: it's malicious, it's mean, it wants to embarrass and discomfit. And, quite simply, there's more of it about. I don't mean in the sense that it's no longer just a way people have of letting their hair down in private, between themselves — although that's true — but that it has permeated the whole of society. Vulgarity has never exactly been a class thing: the Hooray Henry at his bunfight is as

uncouth as the lager lout spewing up his vintaloo in the curry house. But now crudity is the preserve of the respectable middle classes, too. And it's everywhere.

Driving behind a Volvo the other day, I noticed a sticker on its rear window which read: "Honk if you had it last night." A billboard poster for an unwired bra has the line: "Who says a woman can't get pleasure from something soft?" It may be impossible to object to this sort of thing without sounding prissy, but that's to the point in itself. Everyone seems happy, eager even, to talk about their most intimate sexual experiences in public now. Not to have the appetite either to listen or to divulge is to show oneself as a prude. It's seen as a sign of repression, and ever since the Sixties people have been afraid of being thought of as inhibited and frigid.

Openness is the great god now, a no-holds-barred honesty the Holy Grail. I am all for openness and honesty, but I cannot see why that sanctions the undignified spectacle of constant self-exposure. To your own self be true, by all means: but somewhere along the line that has been construed as dictating that you should talk freely about your sexual history to anyone who asks, or walk down the streets in your underwear. If you wish to keep private matters private, you are treated as if there were something psychologically suspect about you.

The new vulgarity is about as specious as the new classlessness: it's a phoney stratagem. Both stem from the same misunderstanding. Both are about reducing everything to the lowest common denominator. There's a fake egalitarianism at play here. Distinctions are seen to be bad: lack of distinctions good. Break down those barriers, all barriers, any barriers. But some barriers are desirable. There should be a distinction made between what is private and public. Pretending



The strippagram: Earl Thomas, hired by office colleagues

that such a distinction can only be hypocritical — and that is the claim made — is self-deluding phooey. Vulgarity is one thing; the attempt to ennoble it quite another.

The new vulgarity is often described, with varying degrees of rueful fondness, as laddishness. But laddishness at some level suggests friendliness, even if it is a boisterous, weigh-heighing and frankly rebarbative sort of friendliness. Everyday vulgarity isn't friendly.

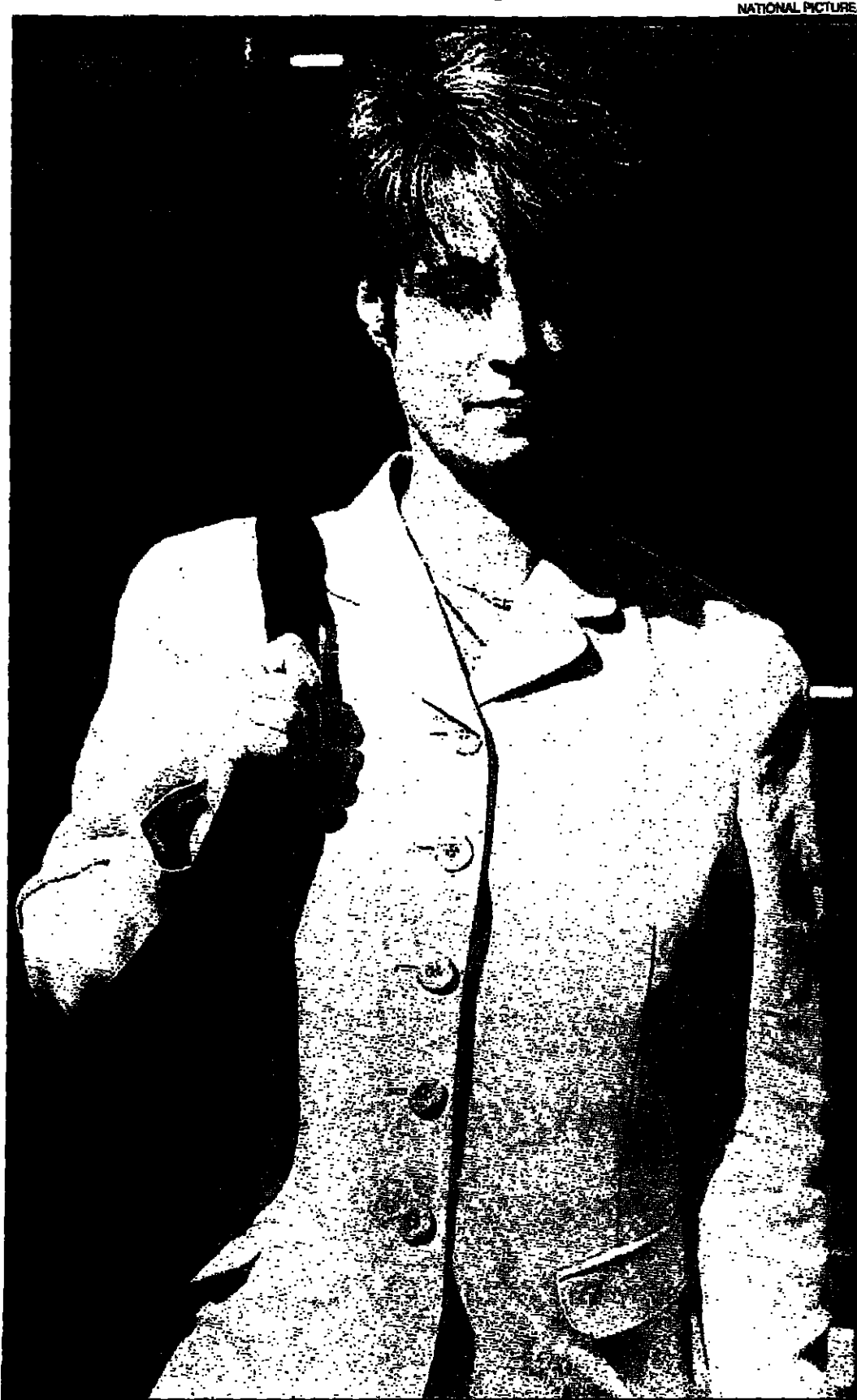
There is something odd in thinking that any form of embarrassment is just a good laugh. Take Red Nose Day, and all that. I don't for one instant criticise what is done, the charitable work, the good intentions and the good deeds: but I find myself appalled by the jolly jape-ishness. I'd rather give my bit without having to turn myself into a clown or witness other people doing it.

Vulgarity always carries with it some notion of pretentiousness. The affected "refined" accent, the swags and furbelows of petit bourgeois aspiration — these have customarily been despised as vulgar. But if the old vulgarity was seen as the province of those who vainly wished to appear better than they were, the new vulgarity insists that we must be worse than we are. I do not use worse in a class sense — I don't believe in stations in life or any of that — but

this crude embracing of all that is coarse, undignified, sniggering and prurient is a tremendous admission of bad faith.

It's the sniggering quality that is so very unnerving. In the Sixties, people wanted to be open because they felt that the repressiveness of the fifties, and before, had led to a society of snickers. Get rid of repression and the age of the double entendre would be dead. But it hasn't happened. We are, as a society at any rate, less repressed than we used to be. But if anything the sniggering has increased. Prudence is everywhere: sex is equated as sleaze. Now, one doesn't want to sound all French and precious about this, but there is something spectacularly seamy about the lavatorial jokiness of any public discussion about sex.

The tabloid sensibility — which, broadly speaking, is the popular sensibility — is uncouth, and insists that we all be uncouth, at pain of charges of hypocrisy. Mandi Norwood, the editor of *Cosmopolitan*, questioned about the sexual obsessions of women's magazines (recent coverlines: *Girls Who Like Girls*, *The Man Who Teaches Women to Orgasm*, *My Lover Left Me For My Brother*) explains that "voyeurism exists right across the media and people are reacting very positively". The sad truth is, she's right. But there's no point criticising the press and television for reflecting reality: the awful thing for all of us is that that is what reality is like.



The victim: Gail Steele, who was not amused at being manacled to her desk and blindfolded

Norman conquest of Dr Sex

THE Spanish writer and psychologist Elena Ochoa — the "ch" is pronounced as in cheque-book — was introduced to Freud at 13. Twenty years later, she met the much-married Sir Norman Foster and Freud obviously came in handy — Spanish siren and British architect are to wed. Señora Ochoa, like most

Tunku Varadarajan on a British architect and his Spanish siren

Spanish women of today, has dyed blonde hair. Immensely photogenic, she cut a striking dash on television some four years ago when she hosted a programme called *Hablamos*

de Sexo (Let's Talk Sex). A professor of psychology at a Madrid university, blessed with what Spaniards call a *pico de oro* — the gift of the gab, she was quickly dubbed Dr Sex and talked her way each week into the national subconscious.

Sir Norman is marrying a rather frank woman. Her programme, ground-breaking for still-puritan Spain, dealt in considerable detail with such matters as orgasms, G-spots, erections, masturbation, impotence, frigidity, sex aids, homosexuality, adolescent sex and sex between pensioners. Señora Ochoa's success was due more to the seriousness with which she addressed these issues than to simple prurience among viewers — although there was doubtless quite a lot of that, too.

This one-woman Spanish "Masters and Johnson" swiftly became a fixture in Spain's countless, glossy *revistas de corazón*, or gossip magazines. They dote on this coquettish intellectual, whose skirts are as short as her doctorate was long. "Her forthcoming marriage to British architect Sir Norman Foster, one of the richest men in the world, will be a civil ceremony in London," cooed one of them earlier this week. The story was accompanied by pictures of Sir Norman and Señora Ochoa (both looking stern after a possible brush with paparazzi in Granada, "enjoying together the Andalusian city's charm and beauty").

Nearly a quarter of a century younger than Sir Norman, Señora Ochoa has just obtained a divorce from another much older man, the Catalan essayist and bon vivant Luis Racionero, to whom the Spanish press refers, with characteristic exaggeration, as a "philosopher". After his divorce, Señor Racionero told *Hola* magazine that he was "sad and depressed", but that "life goes on".

Life goes on for Señora Ochoa, too, presumably in

Britain. Her relationship with Sir Norman now is three years old, and she has lived in London for some time. "I am an anglophile," she confessed to a Spanish reporter recently, relishing every possible connotation of that word.

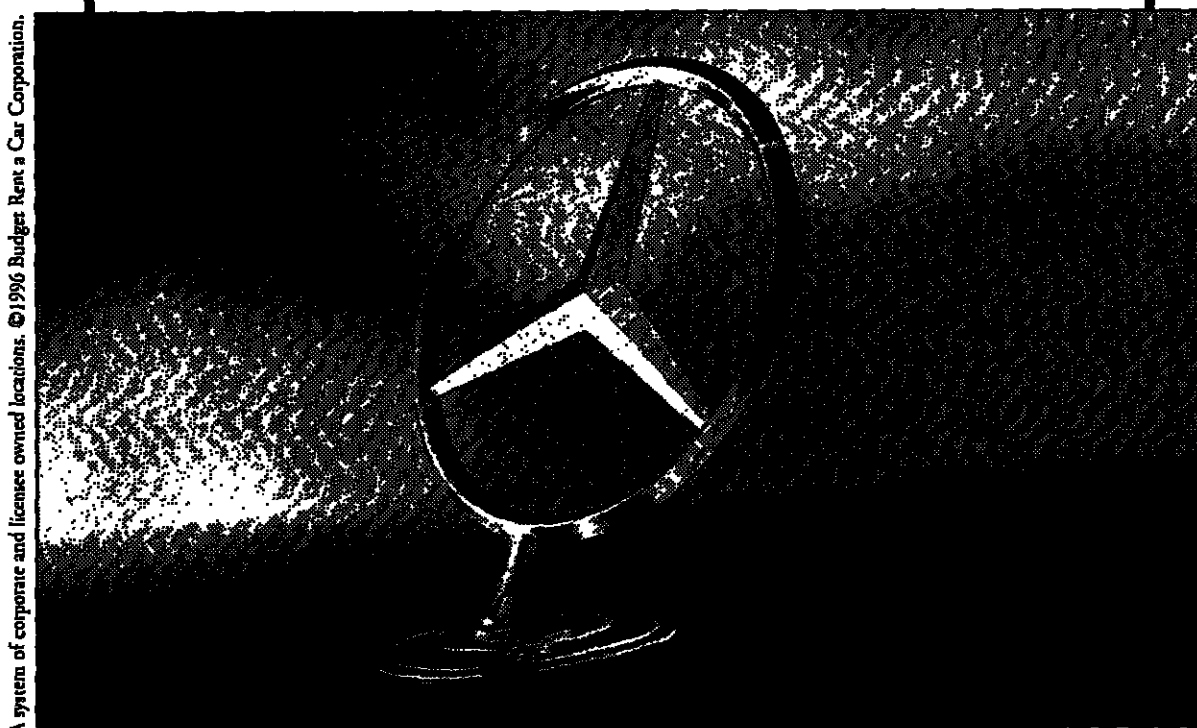
Sir Norman has recent experience of divorce too, having disentangled himself from his second wife, Sabiha, in London last August. Señora Ochoa is as different from "the Begum", as the Pakistani Sabiha is known, as Madrid is from Lahore. She is amiable, for a start, while the Begum was "insufferably grand", to use a phrase directed at her in a 1993 court battle in which she sued HM Customs and Excise for "slander by conduct" and lost.

Señora Ochoa is also a celebrity in Spain — as Sir Norman is, after a fashion, in Britain — and this should bring an important balance to a high-profile union. She writes a regular column in the Sunday colour magazine of *El País*, the Madrid daily, although she is often guilty of froth-mongering. Her last column began: "One of the stories I am going to tell you consists, in telegraphic terms, in the following gentleman

rich in success — private and public — with stupendous woman for wife..." On another occasion, she penned this fulsome line in a love story: "We kept our secret, caressing it as we would some golden velvet. The only external sign that could give us away was the mother-of-pearl seashell that you gave me, and with which you swore eternal love."

BUT Señora Ochoa has always combined these excursions into well paid pap with her more scholarly pursuits as a psychologist. She has written extensively on schizophrenia and is working on a book on Alzheimer's disease. As fortune would have it, one of her academic papers took her to Cambridge, where she first met Sir Norman. After that, it was *adios* Sigmund Freud, welcome Frank Lloyd Wright. There's nothing like a good British building to turn a Spanish woman on.

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Alan Coren



Men do behave badly
— that's why we must ration
our swearing

I sit here, and I type "****". The Times typesetter sits there, and he sets "****". And what do you, wherever you are sitting, read? Of course you do. You do not read "****". You do not read "****". You do not read "****". You do not even read "****". You look at "****", and there in your head is the only word it could be. That is part of "****" charm: in this era when anything goes and almost everything has gone, "****" is a delicate runic nod towards past proprieties, at least as far as *The Times* is concerned.

Or, rather, as far as *The Times* is concerned with hacks like me, were *The Times* to quote, say, Philip Larkin, then it would happily reinstate the three asterisked letters, since art has absolved them of conspiracy to upset. This does, of course, upset me a little. I have sometimes, in the still watches of the night, teased myself by wondering whether the day would ever come when *The Times* considered me enough of an artist to allow me similar licence, but I have always known the dusty answer.

Or rather, I have always known it until this week. Now I am not so sure; but that uncertainty has nothing to do with any unlikely change in my status, what it has everything to do with is the likely change in the status of "****" itself. To us now enter Martin Clunes, star jug-eared wag of the popular BBC1 sit-com, *Men Behaving Badly*, for the moment has come for him to be the star of this column, too. Because, though Mr Clunes may look as though he was kneaded together by the master plastician who gave us Wallace and Gromit, he is in fact very much his own man. We know this because he is even more famous than Philip Larkin for using "****" (having used it most famously live on TV) and now stands on the threshold of, quite literally, yet greater "****"ing stardom. For tomorrow, a new series of *Men Behaving Badly* starts on BBC1, but at the later time of 9.35pm, so that, in the enthusiastic words of Mr Clunes to unimpressed interviewers over the past few days, "there can be a lot more swearing". And though typically coy about whether "****" would be uttered this time around, he confidently promised that it very soon would be, because "before much longer it will be acceptable even in programmes for children. It is only a word."

Oh blimey! As we didn't used to be allowed to cry, certainly not in a quality newspaper. Only a word, Mr Clunes? What the hell, forgive me, does that mean? Not only is no word only a word, but "****" is a very special word indeed, which is precisely why I am horrified at the notion of its being rendered so unspecial that *Blue Peter* presenters will before much longer be telling their infant fans that this is one I made a bit "****"ing earlier. But lest you jump to any conclusions about what it is that horrifies me, let me tell you what makes "****" so very special.

It is that it is one of the tiny handful of real expletives left. Oaths, Mr Clunes, are a diminishing resource. They are a threatened species. They teeter on the brink of extinction. Once, there were thousands, until profligate and thoughtless usage killed them off. Once, if a man banged his thumb with a hammer, he cried "Damn!" This, of course, upset bystanders who hitherto had heard nothing worse than "Damn!", but pretty soon even children were crying "Damn!" without getting an ear clipped, which meant that if thumb-hammerers were adequately to express their feelings, something earlier — as it were, "Sod!" — had to be pressed into service. As it did in all those other human situations where this pressure or that — rage, urgency, despair, dissent, all the rest of man's vast unstable range — needed to vent itself in that very special emphasis which only the expletive offers.

And so it went on, until now they have all but vanished. And when they have vanished utterly, as they will if Mr Clunes has his way, we shall not be able to make any new ones, any more than we are able to make new dodos. Britons will have, in extremis, nothing left to shout. That, and not for the prissy reasons normally advanced, is why the BBC must vigorously resist. That, too, is why *The Times* must never allow me one jot more licence than it has today. For "****" sake.

Peter Brookes
19 vi 96



Death of a Peace Process

Britain's Cabinet is the principal obstacle
to the real process of peace, which
will never come from appeasing the IRA

Perhaps it is an ill wind that blows no good. Perhaps the car bomb, the suction blast, the glass skull of Manchester may induce a change of heart, a turning point on the famous road to sanity. I refer not to the Irish Republican Army. That is a hopeless case. I refer to the rest of us.

Ten years have passed since Margaret Thatcher signed the Anglo-Irish agreement at Hillsborough. Her intention was to marginalise the IRA from Ulster politics. With the co-operation of the Irish Government, sectarian violence would diminish. That would open an opportunity for political reform, a "rolling" withdrawal of British rule and perhaps even the reunion of Ireland. An industry of diplomacy and security sprang into being. The great and good indulged in a flatulence of dialogue. Scepticism was damned. Tough guys were refused dinner. Americans behaved even worse than usual.

The policy failed and is long dead. The cadaver has been slapped, spoken to sweetly, put on life-support, propped up in its coffin. Three years ago, in 1993, John Major changed his tactic. Rather than marginalise the IRA, he decided to be nice to it. He strapped the dead policy to his horse and sent it back into battle, like the corpse of El Cid. The corpse has totally disintegrated. Even its ghost has cried enough.

At the time I thought Mr Major's gamble was a mistake. The ceasefire was no more likely to last than previous ones. The Government was putting the IRA on a pedestal and vastly boosting its prestige. The endgame — talks leading to devolution — was inherently unstable. What was canonised as the Peace Process had become an end in itself. When a politician uses the word process, we do well to stop our clocks.

The IRA made no such mistake. Its goal is Irish reunification, not a rotating seat on an Ulster tourism committee. Last year's "framework document" offered only more committees. True, a ceasefire happened and Mr Major spun out the Peace Process to the point at which, a year ago, the sceptics became uncertain. Had the IRA really been bamboozled by *The Star Spangled Banner* and the prospect of a Stormont salary? After a century of fighting the British, had it really changed its spots?

It had not. The Hillsborough strategy should have been warning enough. It demanded swift movement to political devolution, irrespective of the antics of

the IRA. This did not happen. The security lobby, whose ability to immobilise change in Ulster equals that of the IRA, won out. I lost count of new Secretaries of State who would sink into a Stormont armchair, flick the Ulster fluff from their trouser-legs and assure me that ending violence was a precondition of political progress. British ministers loved soldiers. They talked of "defeating the IRA" as if they were dealing with Rommel in the Libyan desert. They would constantly claim that the tide was turning, the IRA was "exhausted with the fight". Oh those reassuring spies, that high-grade intelligence.

This gave the initiative to the gunmen, and they have not lost it. The one novelty since the Docklands bomb has been an apparent readiness by the Cabinet to proceed with constitutional reform without a further ceasefire. It could have done that at any time in the past decade. The one lesson the IRA has learnt over these two years is that a British Government only jerks to attention at the sound of a bomb. The Cabinet's timing, its compromises, concessions, phraseology have all reacted to the rhythm of the bombing. A policy that had an IRA ceasefire for a heart was bound to die with the death of that ceasefire. That is not scepticism but anatomy.

My views on Northern Ireland are those, I believe, of any liberal. I abhor this week's talk from the Right about internment, a "security clamp-down" and of tipping the wink to the loyalist paramilitaries. Parliament's panic reform of the Prevention of Terrorism Act over Easter was useless and demeaning. On Monday I came close to smashing my television as I watched ITN doing the IRA's job by intoning: "Who knows how long it will be before a 13-year-old feels safe to go shopping in Manchester again?" If

journalists play the terrorist's game, the next step will be censorship. Like most Britons, I instinctively want the Province to take back its squalid politics and disappear, to stop wrecking British cities and British civil liberties.

Yet liberalism drew the line at the Downing Street declaration of 1993. Ulster's future may lie in self-government and in a new relationship with Britain and the South. That must mean constitutional change. But the timing of that change cannot be left to a body such as the IRA's army council. That was the error after Hillsborough. The error grew monstrous in the negotiations that

preceded and followed the 1994 ceasefire, the Hume-Adams deal and the cynical Clinton-Adams deal.

Pumping the IRA full of oxygen and money was idiotic. It gave Mr Adams publicity and votes. It could never change the IRA, because it did not deliver a united Ireland. Eventually it was bound to undermine the Adams generation of Sinn Féin leaders and bring a new group into the ascendancy. That group would call Mr Adams in from the cold, as it did in Manchester on Saturday.

IRA violence will not disappear for a long time. In Spain, the Basques have been given virtual self-rule. That has not stopped them killing. When "the families" can no longer find a reason for killing outsiders, they kill each other, as the Sicilians have always done and as the IRA has done of late. It is in the tribal blood. Violence, vendetta and gangsterism take generations to work out of a community. Ask the New York Police Department. The revival of local politics can squeeze this culture, perhaps marginalise it and reduce its traumatic impact. Political inertia — in the case of Northern Ireland, ossification — does the opposite. It sets violence on a plinth and pours libations to it. It hands gunmen the initiative. For a decade the IRA, a minority within a minority, has been

given the keys to the future of the Province.

Recent British policy — and that of the Irish and American Governments — has not been one of optimism or consensus or giving peace a chance. It has not been a talks policy and certainly not a Peace Process. It has been a brave but stupid gamble with appeasement. The framework proposals now before the gathering at Stormont are not new. The same dreary cast has pondered the same dreary power-sharing scheme for years. Only an idiot could possibly have thought that summoning Senator George Mitchell as chairman of the peace talks would lead to anything other than a Unionist walkout. What has an American politician to do with reordering local government in Britain, or even with bilateral relations between two European Union states? Everyone at Stormont should go home.

Yet there is a second peace process under way in Northern Ireland, to which I have often referred before. It is still running, and in far better shape than the one with capital letters. It reflects the commercial and cultural renewal of Ulster, based on public money and the reduction of sectarian conflict by means of "ethnic cleansing". Over the past ten years, the two communities in Northern Ireland have diverged, vacating territory and partitioning the Province along religious lines. There is some evidence that district politics is reviving on the basis of stronger segregated majorities, strong enough to show some tolerance to minorities. Ulster west of the River Bann is now all but a Catholic state-within-a-state.

There is no reason why this peace process working from the ground upwards should not be developed into fully devolved local government. It is the one grassroots gain that can be credited to two years of relative calm. The IRA appears to have no wish to recommence sectarian violence within Ulster. Sinn Féin is working alongside its old enemies on local councils. There is no need for the histrionics, exclusions and posturing of Stormont for this voyage to local democracy to proceed.

The principal obstacle is the British Cabinet. It wants victories, deals, handshakes and signatures with big names up in lights. It has a necrophiliac obsession with the Peace Process, but cannot see the real process of peace, alive but in need of its sustenance.

Simon Jenkins

Howe's that?

BARONESS THATCHER is said to be appalled by the Queen's Birthday Honours List published on Saturday. In what many regard as a direct snub to Her Ladyship, John Major has appointed her mortal enemy, Geoffrey Howe, a Companion of Honour, the highest accolade a Prime Minister can grant.

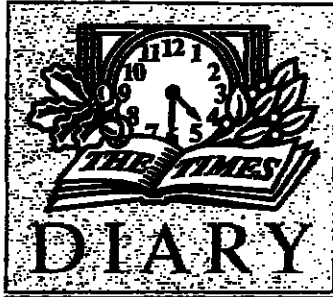
The CH is usually reserved for distinguished artists, thinkers and elder statesmen. Previous recipients include Sir Alec Guinness, Sir Michael Tippett, "Dad" Rylands and the late Lord Goodman. Thatcher conferred one on the Nobel prizewinning economist and free-market guru Friedrich Hayek.

Not only does she believe that Lord Howe of Aberavon has yet to achieve elder statesman status, but she is also concerned that he is still actively involved in British politics. He was tipped to succeed Lord Mackay of Clashfern as Lord Chancellor of the Exchequer wing of the Tory party. To add insult, it was his Commons speech that precipitated Thatcher's downfall in 1990.

"She is said to be incandescent,"

says a friend. "He couldn't have displeased her more."

There are even those who believe that Lady Thatcher may have caught a glimpse of the Birthday Honours List before it was officially published. Why else would she have infuriated John Major by giving money to Bill Cash's European Foundation? As Lord Prior, one of the wets she dispatched from her Cabinet, told me the other night: "It might explain the donation."



My friend Michael Portillo is still suffering the hangover of the rowdy party he held which drowned out the Beating Retreat ceremony on Horse Guards where Princess Margaret took the salute. Hugh Bayley, Labour MP for York, has asked in a written parliamentary question for the identities of the party guests. The Defence Secretary is reticent in reply: "It is not my practice to give such information."

In a pickle

ABSENT yesterday from Ascot was the Heinz tycoon and victorious owner Dr Tony O'Reilly. The former rugby international is under doctor's orders to cut down on globe-crossing, so he missed his two-year-old colt Verglas romping to victory in the Coventry Stakes.

An infection of the inner ear also forced him to pull out of the glimmering ball at the Dorchester on Monday night in aid of the Ireland Fund, of which he is chairman. Yesterday he was heading for his Irish home to recuperate, and there is now concern about the future of his lavish parties at the Irish Derby and the Heinz 57 Stakes. Friends assure me, however, that they are still dead certs.

Takes pluck

FORGET the ostrich plumes sported to such effect this week at the ceremony where the Duke of Devonshire and Sir Timothy Colman



Feathers flying at Ascot

were installed as Knights of the Garter. The feathers to top any hat this year should come from succulent farmyard geese.

Master milliner Philip Treacy, whose customers include the smartest in the Royal Enclosure at Ascot, has developed a meringue-like titter out of goose feathers. Look out for it on Ladies' Day. "The raw material is easy to get hold of and surprisingly versatile," he explains. "Curled, they look just like lilies."

Donald Trump is holding an attic sale. After the extraordinary success of the sale of the Marquess of Bristol's artefacts from the family home in Suffolk, Trump has announced that he too is to hold an auction of chattels from his mansion at Seven Springs and Mar-a-Lago. Christie's says he is getting rid of the knick-knacks so as to modernise the vast property, creating "a world-class golf course and social club" at the mansion. Top draw is likely to be a cut-glass chandelier in Louis XVI style, valued at \$15,000.

Scots shocks

TOP TIP for moral indignation at this year's Edinburgh Fringe festival is a one-woman exhibition of the Kama Sutra. A Japanese-Indi-



Instant Kama: Shakti

an dancer by the name of Shakti is planning, with a troupe of assistants, to act out its tips.

Her show is played down as "pretty suggestive" by a festival organiser. But Moira Knox, a Tory councillor and battle-hardened veteran of the Fringe's moral majority, is sharpening her knitting needles. "I can't believe people want to see this stuff," she says. "Others must speak up. One or two of us bleating isn't enough."

P.H.S

Howard's end: escape from crime

Harsh sentences
do deter, says

Elizabeth Noel

In penal policy, the tide appears at last to be turning against the liberal orthodoxy which has held sway for a generation. A more practical consensus is emerging in favour of making more obvious the link between the seriousness of an offence and the severity of the sentence. Even so, there will be a predictable chorus of opposition to Michael Howard's proposal for mandatory minimum sentences, outlined in his White Paper, *Protecting the Public*, which will be debated today in the Commons. These will affect those convicted for a second time of violent and sexual offences, and for those convicted for a third time of dealing in hard drugs or domestic burglary.

The Home Secretary's critics argue that his sentencing proposals simply amount to a public relations exercise which will do little to reduce crime and may even exacerbate the problem. But there is every reason to believe that his proposals will make sense to the ordinary public and — paradoxically, but most importantly — to criminals themselves.

Some senior judges believe that habitual criminals are more likely to be deterred by the risk of detection than by the threat of longer in prison. Though familiar, this argument depends on a curious logic, since the threat of detection only becomes significant when it leads to a substantial penalty. For instance, most drivers have broken the legal speed limit, but the vast majority never drive above 100mph, not only because of the safety risk, but because they believe that if caught they could well lose their licences. If a burglar or armed robber knew there was a 100 per cent chance of detection, but the penalty turned out to be negligible, the certainty of detection would become irrelevant, as would the deterrent.

Most criminals understand only too well the penalties attached to different criminal offences. Prisoners are entirely candid in their explanations for why they have switched from burglary to shoplifting, from stealing to cigarette rackets, from stealing to handling stolen goods. They have changed their area of speciality because the penalties for these offences are lighter. Where possible, most criminals (like most businessmen) opt for activities in which the profits are reasonable and the risks are low.

I remember one inmate who had been regularly smuggling cigarettes from Belgium to Gateshead. Finally, he was caught and given a three-month prison sentence. To him, this short indignity was a fair swap. Smuggling, after all, had paid for "some really great holidays with the kids". But he was not prepared to break the law in instances where the prison sentence was more arduous. The risk-reward ratio was unacceptable.

For many career burglars, the occasional stretch "inside" is an acceptable occupational hazard. Home Office statistics show that the average Crown Court sentence for a persistent burglar in 1993-94 was a little more than 19 months, barely three months more than that handed down for a first offence. Can it be right that a persistent offender, responsible in some cases for hundreds of burglaries, should serve a sentence scarcely more severe than that of a first-timer? If you are a burglar with seven or more convictions, there is only a one in four chance that a Crown Court will send you to prison at all. And your chances of escaping custody are considerably better in a magistrates' court.

The search for alternatives to custody — central to the liberal orthodoxy — culminated in the Criminal Justice Act of 1991, which stipulated that judges should not consider previous offences when handing down sentence. This achieved its desired aim of stabilising — and at one point reducing — the prison population. But it also meant that many habitual criminals had little to fear. That Act represented the triumph of officialdom over common sense. Conservatives should now admit that it was a failure.

Comparisons have been made between the Home Secretary's White Paper and recent developments in America. In the first six months after Washington State introduced "three strikes and you're out", murders fell by 10 per cent, rapes by 18 per cent and assaults by 4 per cent. Even hardened criminals were visibly chastened by the new rules. The director of Seattle's sex offender registration programme has said that some criminals are leaving the state, and that others are taking up drug and alcohol treatment they had refused in prison. Inmates at Seattle's King County Jail said they thought the new rules "unfair", but every single one said they would think twice before committing a third "strike". Several states are pursuing prison building programmes and introducing longer sentences for persistent criminals. In Texas, this approach has delivered a 30 per cent reduction in crime since 1988, and the serious crime rate is at its lowest for two decades.

Michael Howard has been careful to avoid the less satisfactory aspects of some of these sentencing models, in particular by ensuring that his proposals are targeted. A humane sentencing structure should offer an escape route from crime, but the Home Secretary's first objective must be to protect the public from those who do not have any inclination to change.

The author is prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for Sedgfield, and has worked at Her Majesty's Prison, Wormwood Scrubs.



PUSH-ME-PULL-YOU

Blair is facing two ways on Europe

Tony Blair's speech to German businessmen yesterday was one of which the Prime Minister himself might have been proud. No expression of support for a policy was complete without a countervailing warning. Cliches ran amok: Britain should be "succeeding in Europe not failing, winning not losing, walking tall, not skulking on the sidelines". By the end, observers could not decide whether the Labour leader was leaning towards enthusiasm or scepticism. Like John Major, Mr Blair is proving adept at telling each side what it wants to hear.

On the one hand, we are told, "Britain should take its proper place as a leader in Europe" rather than being "reduced to the margins of influence". On the other, "you should not expect us to agree with everything that comes from Bonn or Brussels". On the one hand, "we do not seek to merge our national identities into an international superstate"; on the other, "we seek a European and global framework for key decisions that affect all our lives".

Mr Blair may be right in judging that mood music is important. It is easy to forget the relief with which Mr Major was first greeted by Helmut Kohl in particular, when he assured his EU partners that Britain wanted to be "at the heart of Europe". But the reality of Britain's position soon caught up with Mr Major, as it will with Mr Blair.

It was on the single currency that the Labour leader was most ambiguous yesterday. In principle, he said, it could have benefits. He would judge the decision on economic grounds. But his definition of what constituted "economic" seemed to include much that is political and constitutional. He warned that, if the economies linked by a single currency were not "genuinely and sustainably convergent", there would be a risk to weaker economies and especially to jobs. "The result could be a

reaction amongst the people that could be severe, nationalist in tone and dangerous."

This is precisely the reaction that makes us so wary of a single currency, whether or not Britain is a member. Mr Blair must know that the chances of Europe's economies becoming "genuinely and sustainably convergent" in the short, medium or even long term are remote. The dangers of which he speaks are, therefore, very real. And they are not merely economic. Once governments lose the tools to remedy such economic suffering, voters start to become restless. When they realise that the Opposition too is similarly impotent, they begin to wonder what use is their vote. Democracy is thus made vulnerable. Sovereignty is not a dry, constitutional matter: the loss of it leads to riots in the streets.

Conservative Party spokesmen may claim an important difference between Mr Blair and Mr Major is that, while both are aware of these dangers, Mr Major is the only one prepared to act on them. Mr Blair yesterday restricted himself to pointing them out; he then went on to promise that he would not try to obstruct EMU — indeed he would "work closely with Germany and others to help make sure EMU is given the best chance of working". Mr Major is also, however, not attempting to stop the project. Both can see it ending in tears; both are prepared to watch the tears being shed.

If the rise of nationalism on the Continent were a problem merely for those nations concerned, this might be a legitimate policy. But Britain too has an interest in the continuance of democracy and peace in Europe. The EU was set up precisely to achieve peace and prosperity. Its current direction imperils this. If Britain can rightly be accused of being on the sidelines, it is not because this country is not joining EMU, but because it is not opposing it strongly enough.

RUSSIA'S MR CLEAN

An unlikely champion of modernisation

Yesterday, a beaming Boris Yeltsin appointed Aleksandr Lebed National Security Adviser and head of his powerful Security Council. The Russian President's immediate aim is to win over as many as possible of the 11 million voters who supported the gruff former general in the first round of the presidential elections. But by Mr Yeltsin's account, this is no mere tactical alliance against Gennadi Zyuganov, but "a union between two politicians, two manifestos". To underline the point that this is a marriage built to last, he told Russia's voters that he saw Mr Lebed as his probable successor.

Mr Lebed won 15 per cent of the first-round vote by convincing Russians that he was the man of iron resolve needed to restore *porядок* — order — by rooting out corruption and organised crime. Mr Yeltsin has smoothly placed this poisoned chalice in his hands. He is expected to be given effective control of the "power ministries" — Defence, the Interior and the Secret Services. It is an astonishing leap up the ladder for a 46-year-old political novice who has twice failed to forge an effective "third force" party of his own and who resigned his commission less than a year ago.

That resignation followed his defeat in a bitter public row with General Pavel Grachev, the unpopular Defence Minister, over the decision to downgrade and ultimately to withdraw the 14th Russian Army which he commanded in Moldova. Most Russians, however, credited him with preventing civil war there. General Grachev's resignation yesterday is further confirmation that Mr Yeltsin has changed the political guard.

Mr Lebed hardly comes across as a liberal. Blunt to a fault, he speaks the language of the mailed fist. Although he insists that a free press is essential to the democratic process and supports jury trials, he has said that Russia is still so chaotic that "we are going to have to use authoritarian methods to force

people to build democracy". His current role model is de Gaulle, but not long ago — mainly because he admires the transformation of the Chilean economy — it was General Pinochet.

Mr Lebed may not, however, be as alarming as this might seem. First, he is no friend of the all-powerful State, which he describes as "a wolf gnawing at the economy". Instead, he calls for its role to be cut back to core responsibilities, defence, law and order ("to protect the fruits of the labour of law-abiding citizens from the whims of officials and from gangsters' extortion") and essential social and educational services. On investment laws, Russia's chaotic tax system and cutting the bureaucracy's size and powers, he is a moderniser. He blames the failures of the market economy in Russia on "the bandit State".

If Mr Yeltsin wins in the second round, Mr Lebed will be judged above all by his success in his primary task, the offensive against corruption and crime on which he insists that "Russia's survival as a state" depends. His legislative plans include rules to make state budgets more transparent, stiff penalties for bribe-taking, compulsory disclosure by state officials of their own and their families' income; greater protection for judges and law-enforcement agencies; and an independent body to fight organised crime which would co-operate with Interpol and foreign intelligence services.

This would amount to a declaration of war on the entire Russian *nomenklatura*. It would encounter powerful resistance. That is precisely why Mr Yeltsin has ducked these reforms so far. As Mr Lebed himself has remarked, "it's not the generals who are running for election you need to worry about, it's the generals who aren't". If his popularity does swing enough votes to win Mr Yeltsin a second term, that will only be the start of Russia's next battle against the rot within. It will be the toughest yet.

FIRE MOUNTAINS

Bold Italians face dark volcanic forces

Even sophisticated 20th-century man draws back at times from tempting the gods. To drill boreholes into the side of Vesuvius and detonate up to 1,700lb of explosives deep inside the volcano must strike anyone as a foolish provocation. Paolo Gasparini, one of the volcanologists attempting to map the mountain's churning centre, maintains that their experiments will administer no more than a "light knock" to the lowering volcano. But what if such hubris provoked a cataclysm? The vengeful deities that have periodically rained terror and lava down the mountain's fertile slopes may not take kindly to mortal interference.

There are 1,500 active volcanoes around the world. The spirits that fire their magma up from the underworld seem, at the end of the 20th century, to be especially angry. Spectacular clouds now rise from Mount Ruapehu in New Zealand. On the other side of the Pacific, the smoking volcano on Montserrat threatens to blow at any time, keeping the tiny colony's inhabitants in refugee camps for months. The world is only now recovering from the explosive eruption in 1991 of Mount Pinatubo, whose 20 million tonnes of ash darkened the skies, reflecting sunlight and cooling the world's climate by 0.5°C over three years.

From Mount St Helens in America to

Mount Vulcan in New Guinea and Mount Unzen in Japan, volcanoes long dormant are erupting into furious life. New islands are rising from the foaming seas around Iceland as lava spews from the deep. Mammoth Mountain, in eastern California, is emitting dangerous levels of carbon dioxide. Old craters in the Alban Hills near Frascati are waking from a 20,000-year sleep, and the spongy ground has risen a foot in 15 years.

Volcanologists have rarely been so excited or so active. The first reported initiate of their mystery was Empedocles, who, wanting to be regarded as a Greek god, tried to disappear in Mount Etna: the lava spewed out his sandal to show him both mortal and a common. Other ancients took a more step-by-step approach. Pliny the Elder took a step too far and was killed in his quest to discover what was happening on Vesuvius; Pliny the Younger, keeping a safer distance, left us an invaluable eyewitness account of the most famous eruption in history.

The fascination with these occasional roars from the globe's fiery core has drawn scientists to the lip of disaster ever since. Maurice and Katia Krafft, the celebrated French volcanologists, paid for their obsession with their lives in 1991. Volcanoes are unpredictable beasts. The Italians should think again.

BSE and animal feed in France

From the Editor of Country Life

Sir, In attacking Britain for allowing the export of infected animal feed after 1988 (report, June 14), French politicians have inadvertently highlighted the hitherto little-remarked scandal of France's own policy on BSE.

If the disease is transmitted through feed, and large quantities of contaminated feed were imported into France, it is inconceivable that France can only have suffered the 15 or so cases of BSE that have been officially notified. Further, the policy of slaughtering whole herds whenever a single case is reported clearly does not prevent infected meat from entering the food chain, since the long incubation period means that cattle from these herds may be sold and slaughtered before symptoms appear.

Whenever *Country Life* has spoken to the French Ministry of Agriculture they have been emphatic — indeed heated — in their assertion that there is no BSE in France. Consequently, they do not take any precautions against it. The brains, spinal column and other specified offals are not removed from slaughtered animals, as they are here.

If the French really do believe that BSE is a threat to humans, they have shown appalling insouciance about the danger posed by their own beef. It is hardly surprising that German consumers' confidence in beef has fallen. As a prominent German manufacturer of organic products told me, Germany has open borders with the other European nations and the German consumer is not convinced of the honesty of French farmers or the diligence of the French authorities.

It seems extraordinary that the European Union is not protecting its citizens by insisting on the removal of specified offals from cattle slaughtered in France. Until it does, surely the British Government should ban the import of pâté and other French products containing beef, on the grounds that France's safety measures do not match those in this country.

Yours faithfully,

CLIVE ASLET,

Editor,

Country Life,

King's Reach Tower,

Stamford Street, SE1.

June 14.

From Baroness Williams of Crosby

Sir, You reported on Friday that there was outrage in France at the alleged failure of the European Commission to prevent the export of suspect animal feed from Britain in 1989.

The Commission raised the issue of the safety of animal feed in 1988, but was rebuffed by member states, including both Britain and France. It was not until 1994 that regulations were introduced at the European level.

Many of us are angered by the efforts of member states, including our own, to scab on the Commission for their own mistakes and shortcomings.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS,

House of Lords,

June 16.

From Mr Colin W. Maclean, FRCVS

Sir, Your headline today, "Scientists find direct evidence for BSE link", simplifies and distorts.

In fact the transmission of BSE to monkeys was achieved only by injecting material into their brains (not, by the way, the first time this has been done).

There is no evidence that BSE can be transmitted orally into monkeys nor any proof of a link between BSE and CJD. There has been no rise in the normal incidence of CJD cases, even though evidence has been found of a different kind of CJD. Indeed, the number of cases of CJD actually came down last year.

But even if there were a link between BSE and CJD we have the strictest safeguards in the world in place. This is why the experts are able to assert that British beef is safe to eat. I am in favour of everybody being made aware of the facts on BSE because this is a matter of such understandable public concern. But the debate should be conducted on the basis of science, not sensationalism.

Yours faithfully,

COLIN W. MACLEAN

(Director General,

Meat and Livestock Commission,

PO Box 44,

Winterhill House,

Nowdon Drive, Milton Keynes,

Buckinghamshire,

June 14.

From Mr Anthony Gordon

Sir, Your headline today, "Britain may be frozen out of hostile EU", at least raises the prospect of our leaving by mutual consent.

When we joined the EEC, was there anyone who believed that Brussels could decree that we should not send our beef to South Africa or other third countries even if they wanted it?

Such interference is monstrous. I warned the Commission at a meeting of the Beef Advisory Committee a month ago that their actions could turn the majority of UK citizens into Euro-sceptics. If this happens they will only have themselves to blame.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY GORDON,

UK Member of EU Beef

Advisory Committee,

217 Central Markets, ECI,

June 10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Structural weakness in Birt's BBC

From Lady Anglesey

Sir, William Rees-Mogg writes of "Birt's gamble on a commercial BBC" (June 10). He suspects it may bring to an end the BBC as we have known it. As a past member of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Board of the British Council, and as a past Chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, I strongly share his concern, particularly about the threat to high standards in regional broadcasting, and in the World Service and on radio.

The licence fee has been supported by all parties and the BBC has rightly been independent of government. I admire much that John Birt has achieved, but I fear the possible long-term "political" as well as commercial consequences of this gamble.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY ANGLESEY,

Plas Newydd,

Llanfairpwll, Isle of Anglesey,

June 10.

From Mrs Mary Whitehouse

Sir, William Rees-Mogg does a considerable public service by exposing the consequences of John Birt's "gamble on a commercial BBC".

One is driven to ask — by what right does Birt decide, apparently more or less off his own bat, to make an end to the BBC as we know it by effectively privatising it? And all without reference to the viewer and listener.

There is no doubt that the retirement of Marmaduke Hussey was a great loss to the BBC and to us all. One can only regret that the new Chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, after so short a time in office, has apparently decided to give John Birt his head, with profound implications not only for the future of the BBC but for the quality of life in Britain and indeed much further afield.

May I suggest that this matter be put to a national referendum? While it may be thought that one has been, upon occasion, in the forefront of criticism of the BBC, John Birt's proposals fill one with dismay — "too clever by half" is the description which springs to mind. Let the public have the,

chance to make its own voice heard — after all it does provide the cash.

Yours faithfully,

MARY WHITEHOUSE
(Founder and President Emeritus,
National Viewers' and
Listeners' Association,
Blanchard,
Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex,
June 11.

From the Bishop of Southwark

Sir, In the light of the publication of John Birt's proposed structure changes to the BBC, I, as Chairman of the Central Religious Advisory Committee (CRAC), am concerned with the continuing presence of religious broadcasting both within the domestic output and, more significantly, the World Service.

The two departments fulfil different roles. Domestic religion provides coverage of religious issues for its British audience in such programmes as *Heart of the Matter*, *Everyman* and *Sunday*, a service in the broadcasting of Christian worship programmes and a lively contribution to current ethical debate in *The Moral Maze*.

The World Service, on the other hand, has cultivated different skills for a different role, providing coverage of international religious issues, reflections from all the world's religions, taking seriously the different faith commitments of its audience and providing major educational series like *The Way of the Buddha*, *What Do Hindus Believe?* and *The Essential Quran*, series which have educated a wide audience and helped to break down barriers of community understanding. CRAC has constantly recognised the significance each makes to the relevant output.

I write now personally to express my concern that, in the light of the current proposals, the unique contribution of religious programmes to a world audience may be jeopardised.

Yours sincerely,

TROY SOUTHWARK,

Bishop's House,

38 Tooting Bec Gardens,

Streatham, SW16,

June 14.

The Paestum Diver

From Mr Michael Moynihan

Sir, Might there not be a perfectly simple explanation for the Paestum Diver, the only painting from the Golden Age of Greek art to have come to light (Arts, June 11)?

During a holiday in 1988 at Paestum, southern Italy, about which I later wrote a travel article, we were shown, among the majestic ruins, what remained of the Gymnasium where Greek youths had "kept warrior-fit, most of it in a swimming pool with a zig-zag labyrinth of tunnels at one end to provide a submerged obstacle course".

About the closely guarded Tomb of the Diver in the Museum, dated 475 BC, which had been discovered by farm-workers digging near the railway station in 1968, I wrote: "Round the sides are depicted scenes from a gay (in its modern connotation) funeral banquet while under the lid is a naked youth diving into a pool. 'An allegory of the

soul's journey from this life to the next," pontificated the guide. From the tight smile of the diver, I would say it was a lightning sketch of the late lamented, showing off in the Gymnasium swimming-pool.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL MOYNIHAN,

Nuthatch, Fletcher Close,

North Mundham, Chichester,

West Sussex,

June 13.

From Miss J. M. Venn

Sir, The reproduction of the Paestum Diver this morning and your account gave me most welcome information. I have some botanical knowledge and I straightaway thought of the "trees" depicted in the painting as red seaweeds, abundant and feathery in warm shallow waters.

Yours etc,

J. M. VENN,

Quin Cottage,

Shillingstone, Blandford, Dorset.

June 11.

Lottery grants

From Mr R. F. Bond

Sir, The charity I represent has existed for over 100 years in order to offer what the National Lottery calls "disadvantaged young people a realistic chance to become economically self-sufficient through providing employment opportunities, training and skills development". Our charity, a school, requires no government grants and fees are paid on behalf of the youngsters who come to it.

We have a one-off requirement for capital to expand our facilities. Seventy per cent is available from reserves and two years of fund-raising. We asked the lottery for the balance so that we could make a start in July to meet a known surge in demand next September. Once the development is complete we would again be financially self-sufficient. Our application was

acknowledged but we were never visited or even interviewed.

There will always be controversy over the distribution of lottery money and I am sure many have as good a story as ours, but the members of the lottery board and their selection panels should, I feel, keep in touch more with public sentiment. Mr Andrew Phillips, a member of the board (letter, June 13), seems to me to be less in touch than he thinks.

We now have the problem of defining other options open to us in the absence of lottery support.

As to the future of lottery grants, I suggest a regular rotation of assessors, adjudicators and indeed board members.

Yours faithfully,

R. F. BOND,

Pine Copse,

Calthorpe Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

June 13.

Legal complaints

From Mr Tony Biles

Sir, The Legal Services Ombudsman is reported (June 13) as saying that if there is no improvement in the level of dissatisfaction with lawyers the Government may eventually set up an independent system to handle complaints against solicitors.

It is now ten years since the Solicitors Complaints Bureau was established. The time for internal change and tinkering with a system which is widely acknowledged to be defective has passed. An independent system should be set up now.

Yours faithfully,

TONY BILES

(Vice-Chairman,

Casla — Complaints against

solicitors: action for

independent adjudication,

PO Box 305,

Guildford, Surrey GU2 5WE.

June 17.

Business letters, page 31

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Asylum appeals in cases of torture

From Professor Sir Richard Doll, CH, FRS, and others

Sir, We are writing to draw attention to the treatment of torture victims who have fled their own countries to seek sanctuary in the United Kingdom. Making decisions on asylum cases is unquestionably difficult. Documentary evidence is hard to come by in totalitarian regimes, and errors in decisions are bound to have desperate and sometimes fatal consequences. There is a need for a measure of the benefit of the doubt on evidence, a sympathetic hearing and good information on conditions in their country of origin.

On June 19 the Nigerian pro-democracy activist Abiodun Igbidun will have been held in custody in this country for a year. His claim to be a torture victim was rejected by the Home Secretary in August last year. In an unsuccessful appeal the special adjudicator wrote: "I do not accept his account of having been arrested on various occasions and having been tortured. There is no independent medical evidence to support that claim."

In his case the procedures and criteria for handling and determining refugee status under the 1951 United Nations Convention and its 1967 Protocol were not followed, and no expert medical advice was obtained.

By a fortunate meeting of disparate medical and journalistic interests in Oxford it was subsequently possible to secure documentary, surgical and psychiatric evidence of torture and its psychological and traumatic sequelae. Mr Igbidun's deportation has been deferred and the Home Office is reconsidering his case, but in the meantime he remains at Campsfield House Detention Centre, near Oxford. That his is an exceptional case adds to the concern for the others who lacked such investigative opportunity.

It is clear that the number of economic asylum seekers is legion and strong regulation is required. However there is a long-standing and proud British record of help for those fleeing from persecution and torture. None of us would want to see this lost. We believe the case of Mr Igbidun illustrates that exemplary consideration should be given to asylum seekers who claim to have experienced torture, and most importantly a proper medical examination by specialists.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD DOLL,

(Professor Emeritus of Medicine),

ANDREW MCMICHAEL

(Professor of Immunology),

PETER MORRIS

(Nuffield Professor of Surgery),

DAVID WEATHERALL

(Regius Professor of Medicine),

University of Oxford,

John Radcliffe Hospital,

Oxford,

June 15.

British architecture

From Mr Terry Farrell

Sir, We are going through a really creative and vibrant phase of British architecture. However, I am concerned that the lottery has encouraged a centralisation of taste control, as Marcus Binney ("Have a prize, old boy", Arts, June 10) has recognised.

The last time architectural taste was in such a few hands was in the booming 1950s and 1960s, when so much of that which was built reflected the view that leading architects knew what was good for everyone else. There is certainly an element of anti-populism and a real disrespect for pluralism in the leading architectural institutions of today.

I would be in favour of those who buy the lottery tickets and pay for the new buildings having much more say in what is built with their money.

My hunch is that their taste would be very different from the narrow groups appointed to choose on their behalf.

Yours,

TERRY FARRELL,

Terry Farrell & Partners,

17 Hanbury Street, NW8,

June 13.

Millennium wheel

From Mr L. P. Bay

Why can't we have a Bart?

At last, *The Simpsons* are moving to their natural home, the BBC. The *Daily Mail* is appalled. It sees the purchase of this animated sitcom as another sign of the BBC's abnegation of programme quality and family values. The *Mail* should look again. The *Simpsons* is not only the most moral of cartoon series, but offers the shrewdest glimpse available into the anatomy of Middle America. It has no role for the witless and most literate show on television.

I've hesitated to praise the brilliance of *The Simpsons* because it has been available only to the minority of viewers who take Sky One, a channel offered by BSkyB, partially owned by the owners of *The Times*, who also own the makers of the programme. Twentieth Century Fox Television. Self-restraint has been hard. Nowhere are there more dependable laughs. Nowhere else can the scriptwriters be relied on to take a good joke a turn or two beyond the expected.

The other week showed young Bart Simpson fleeing some irate neighbours. As they beat upon the doors of the Simpsons' all-American little house, the lad desperately dials the police. He gets a recorded message: "You have reached the Springfield Police Station. If you are being burgled, press 1. If you are being mugged, press 2. If you are being murdered or seek personal assistance, please stay on the line." Infuriated, Bart punches in a whole lot of numbers at random. The automated voice continues on its track: "You have reached regicide. If you know the name of the king or queen being murdered, press 5."

To the *Daily Mail*, *The Simpsons* are "a dysfunctional family of misfits whose daily exploits are the opposite of the American dream and self-improvement ethos". Wrong. The Simpson family is not amoral. Only its men are. Bart hates school and breaks its rules. His father, Homer, who swills beer and eats junk food, tries to escape his job at the Springfield nuclear processing plant.

But neither ever gets away with much. The women of the programme rope them back to the American straight and narrow. Brainy sister Lisa gets top marks at school and fights gender stereotyping. Mother Marge, as old-fashioned as her beehive hairdo, exerts control in more traditional ways. Whatever her men get up to, she has them round the table for a home-cooked meal at dinner time.

The Simpsons are just what the *Daily Mail* loves: a monogamous, faithful, married couple, who love their three children and do not know what has happened to the world they grew up in. They battle with the

shapeless new America, a land of family therapy, street crime, happy-clappy religion, aimless schools, multiculturalism, giant discount stores (Marge concedes that the local giant warehouse offers a very good price for 14lb of nutmeg), and aggressive geriatrics. Grandpa Simpson, who demands his senior citizen rights while harking back to his little house on the prairie, is one of the programme's strongest characters. Their refuge and their strength is TV. The programme begins and usually ends with them piled on the sofa in front of the set.

Where they watch themselves. *The Simpsons*, launched in 1990 and winner of two Emmy awards, is a prime text for university courses in media and popular culture. It sassily displays all the fashionable theories, like "self-referentiality".

The *Simpsons* know they are characters in a television series. They know they are products of a cynical Hollywood industry, whose hard-voiced moguls calculate their impact on Middle America. They know that the actual work of animation is done by clever factory workers in Korea. (In one episode, they actually visit the factory.) Sometimes they fight back. Marge confronts the moguls as part of her crusade against violence on television. She launches it after Baby Maggie, after watching the mayhem on the cat-and-mouse cartoon, *Itchy and Scratchy*, boys her father on the head.

The *Simpsons* also exhibits modish "intertextuality". At the core of each episode usually lies buried a cultural icon, an old movie or ancient myth. Detecting *Crocodile Dundee*, *Fiddler on the Roof* or *Orpheus in the Underworld* is one of the gratuitous delights of the series. A bookish friend to whom I introduced the programme instantly caught allusions to *Henry V* and the Trojan War.

Personalities from showbiz and politics wander into *The Simpsons*, uncertain as Pirandello's characters where the reality divide lies. Ex-President George Bush buys a retirement home in Springfield and Barbara bakes cookies. Springfield's rakish mayor has a John F. Kennedy accent which keeps emerging from motel bedrooms.

Forget *OJ*, *Murder One* and Alastair Cooke. *The Simpsons* tells you all you need to know about America today. Why can't someone do the same for Britain? Channel 4, which would have loved to have bought the series, or the BBC, which has won the prize, ought to try. The state of modern Britain deserves reflection in something sharper than soap.



BRENDA MADDOX

Plantin lives on, for now

MARCUS PLANTIN, the ITV network controller, is reaching the end of his fourth year in the job. And to celebrate, he appears to have seen off another attempt to oust him.

Nasty rumours have been circulating that the big three ITV companies — Granada, Carlton and Yorkshire Tyne-Tees — were ganging up on Mr Plantin, blaming him for BBC's success in whittling away at ITV's ratings lead. Granada and Carlton distanced themselves from this move, leaving YTV rather isolated.

However, not everything has gone Mr Plantin's way. Inquiries about his future prompted a resounding endorsement of his capabilities from Roger Lawton, the chairman of ITV's Broadcast Board. Any student of football will tell you what it means when the chairman expresses full support for his manager.

On the Boyle

PREPARE for an act of God at BBC Radio 4. Radio Scotland's engaging boss James Boyle, who once dismissed speculation that he might land a network radio controllership as being "akin to the local priest becoming Pope", is now front-runner to replace Michael Green as Controller of Radio 4.

Not to be confused with the Glasgow gangland ex-con Jimmy Boyle, the Beeb's Mr Boyle is credited with turning around the fortunes of Radio Scotland prior to its becoming Radio Station of the Year in 1994. He is currently on a six-month secondment in London as the BBC's chief adviser on editorial policy.

Among his many qualities, colleagues unanimously stress his "niceness". "He has made few, if any, enemies within the BBC," according to one. Miraculous, indeed.

SENIOR BBC executives who have been led to believe they still have a job in the wake of the corporation's massive restructuring are now wrangling over office space. Will Wyatt, now chief execu-



Bob Geldof and Paula Yates: separate islands?



Bob's new game

BOB GELDOLF's television production company, Planet 24, is understood to be looking for a tropical island to buy off the Mexican coast for the filming of its new game show, *Survive*, which has been described as *Gladiators* meets *Lord of the Flies*. Contestants are dropped on to the island and set endurance tests and challenging tasks, such as building a shelter or a raft, on which they are judged.

Geldof's co-owners of Planet 24, Charlie Parsons and Waheed Alli, have something of a reputation for designing shows around their favourite

locations — but do they really need to go to the expense of buying an island?

The company line, apparently, is that it will be more cost-effective to own the atoll outright since it is planning to make several editions of the programme for the international market. Insiders suggest, however, that the investment might turn out to be a handy retreat for Geldof when he just wants to escape his neighbours, former wife Paula Yates and her boyfriend Michael Hutchence.

VIEWERS who have noticed a slight edginess in the manner of the BBC newscaster Peter Sissons need not worry. A devoted sports fan, Sissons is determined not to miss a single minute of Euro 96, and has installed a tiny hidden television monitor on his studio "desk". Isn't this distracting? Not a bit, retorts Sissons, who is adamant that he would be able to keep a straight face in the event of a goal being scored during the opening headlines. After all, he adds, it is his duty to keep fully up to date with the current mood of the nation. Quite.

One year on, the Saatchis ride high



Maurice Saatchi: rapid growth

M&C SAATCHI, the ad agency formed by Maurice and Charles Saatchi after Maurice's dramatic ousting from Charlotte Street, officially celebrates its first anniversary today. More than 1,700 guests will assemble at Charles's gallery in north London.

The agency's year began rather humbly, with cramped offices and ugly squabbles, but it has bagged about £150 million worth of business, opened up branches in seven locations worldwide and begun producing the sort of startling creative work for which the old shop is famed.

It has constructed a client list which is the stuff of any agency chief's dreams — names such as BA, Silk Cut, Mirror Group, Dixons, ITV... Oh, and the Tory party. And its UK workforce has grown from five to 170.

"If we'd done a business plan, which we didn't, we would have had a better year," says Nick Hurrell, chief executive, keen to emphasise that "over half" the shop's business is "non-Saatchi and Saatchi".

Maybe the next 12 months will bring

ADVERTISING

what the industry has been eagerly awaiting — a public, full-blown pitch between M&C and Saatchis itself.

THE debate over the use of children in advertising rages on in the wake of Bates Dorland's Saffway's commercial featuring Harry "chatting up" Molly in the supermarket.

As many as 25 MPs, including four Labour frontbenchers and one Tory backbencher, have already signed an early day motion proposed by Tony Banks deploring the campaign. Now Banks is upping the ante. Even if his EDM is not debated he plans to table an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill when it returns to the House next month, calling for tougher controls over the use of youngsters in all advertising.

And if that fails, he is fired up enough to pursue the issue directly with the Independent Television Commission. He is evidently galvanised in

his stand by a bulging postbag of letters from the public.

MISCHIEVOUS rumours have begun to circulate that the *Daily Express* could be on the brink of reviewing its advertising business. Key meetings have been taking place between Richard Addis, the Editor, Stephen Grabiner, executive director of newspapers at United News & Media, and Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News & Media.

The account has been housed at the rather safe and comfortable DMB&B for a decade, but the *Express* is understood to be flirting with the idea of a younger, more alternative boutique.

Addis was spotted enjoying Pimm's at the Stella Artois tennis championships last Friday, courtesy of top ten shop Lowe Howard-Spink, which, by happy chance, has a significant gap on its client list for a nice, chunky newspaper account.

BELINDA ARCHER

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Private eyes focus on C4

Many people in the industry believe that selling off Channel 4 would curb its instinct for innovation

Reports earlier this week that John Major is considering privatising Channel 4 sounded very much like a sabre-rattle. What better way, in these pre-election campaign days, to appease Tory rightwingers than to threaten to silence the man they call the nation's "pornographer in chief", the channel's chief executive Michael Grade, by subjecting him to market forces?

By mid-morning yesterday, however, it was becoming clear that Downing Street is indeed giving thought to the issue. Although the



ALEXANDRA FREAN

Heritage Minister, Iain Sproat, told the Commons that the Government would not back an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill — proposed by the Tory backbencher David Shaw and calling for Channel 4 to be sold off — he did not rule out the possibility of returning to the issue at a later date. Downing Street sources have done everything to encourage the view that selling off Channel 4 may feature in the next Conservative general election manifesto.

Mr Shaw, who withdrew his amendment, says that he was not motivated by disgust at the bad language and sexual content of some of the channel's programming. Indeed, he claims to be an admirer of Mr Grade. What Mr Shaw wants to do is to build on Channel 4's current success.

"My concern is to turn Channel 4 into a global player. The media is a global industry now, and Channel 4 should take its part in the international market. To do this it will need access to the markets to raise capital," he explains, then adds, optimistically: "I have in mind a company that can take on the likes of Time Warner and Disney." (Channel 4's annual turnover of more than £464 million is peanuts compared with Disney's £7.8 billion revenue.)

There is, in fact, nothing to stop the channel borrowing money now if it wants to because, unlike the BBC, its liabilities do not count towards the public sector borrowing requirement. In 1992, for example, it took out a £75 million loan (now repaid) to help to



Lew Grade with his nephew, Michael, who, by highlighting the station's commercial potential, is thought to have brought on the privatisation threat

cover advertising debts and its move to a new building.

Channel 4's supporters counter, anyway, that the best way for it to compete on the world stage is to remain a niche player, commissioning and financing non-mainstream, hand-crafted film and television productions rather than taking on the international media giants that turn out blockbuster films by the yard. It is no accident, they might add, that both *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the most successful British film worldwide ever, and *Trainspotting*, the second highest grossing film in Britain ever (after *Four Weddings*), were both backed by Channel 4.

The other two stock reasons for privatisation — to improve value of the product or service for the consumer and to eradicate inefficiency — do not really apply to Channel 4. At present, the station's job is to plough as much money as possible into programme-making in order to create a high-quality product. With shareholders, its main preoccupation would be cutting programme budgets.

While it could be argued that a few of the channel's executives are superfluous, Channel 4, which has a staff of 550, is probably more efficient than any other British terrestrial television company, with the possible exception of the forthcoming Channel 5.

Any suggestions, incidentally, that making Channel 4 responsible to shareholders would curb its penchant for innovation and controversy and reduce the amount of sex it shows, does not hold up to scrutiny. Last year the Independent Television Commission made 17 interventions against ITV (largely shareholder owned) and 11 against Channel 4.

The spectre of privatisation has been raised periodically throughout the channel's 14-year history, notably during the passage of the 1990 Broadcasting Act. Until 1992 the station only paid corporation tax on its relatively small overseas earnings, and it still pays no money for its licence to broadcast.

These special circumstances have made the channel vulnerable to Treasury types, who believe that selling it off could bring in around £1.5 billion.

But the arguments for and against privatising Channel 4 extend far beyond a mere numbers game. Broadcasters of all hues are unanimous in their belief that privatising the channel would be disastrous for the industry. For a start it would upset the delicate balance that exists between Channel 4, ITV and Channel 5, at a time of mushrooming competition from cable and satellite channels.

Although Channel 4 does compete with ITV in some areas, its unique public service remit, requiring it to cater for alternative and minority interests, means that its schedule is distinctly uncompetitive in others. It has just completed a season of programmes on poverty, and on Saturday it showed four hours of opera from Glyndebourne. *Channel 4 News*, considered by many politicians to be the jewel in the station's crown, is screened at 7pm for one hour and follows a non-populist, heavyweight, political agenda.

A more commercially orientated Channel 4 would also put a tighter

competitive squeeze on BBC2. Britain's other "minority" channel, which would be under greater pressure than ever to boost ratings in order to justify its share of the television licence fee.

Despite their support for keeping Channel 4 in its present state, many in ITV believe that Mr Grade has bought the privatisation threat upon himself. Not only has he succeeded in relentlessly upsetting a handful of vociferous Conservative MPs and right-wing commentators but, more importantly, he recently highlighted the station's immense commercial potential in his successful and high-profile campaign to persuade the Government to alter the "funding formula", which requires Channel 4 to pay tens of millions of pounds of profits to ITV every year. A new formula, proposed in the current Broadcasting Bill, would reduce Channel 4's payments to ITV to zero.

The entire broadcasting industry will now be hoping that Channel 4 is as effective in mobilising political opinion against privatisation as it was in winning the funding formula battle.

serious, even dull, on serious subjects. Specialists in foreign affairs, who describe *The Economist's* foreign coverage as "superb", would agree.

It is certainly a cult reading in America and is as prominently placed in corporate headquarters as *Country Life* in the waiting rooms of British dentists (although Edward Heath, stung by criticism, once derided it as a coffee table magazine for pretentious American hostesses).

President Clinton is said to be a regular reader, as is his Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Bill Gates, the Microsoft billionaire, is another addict. On his fortieth birthday, staff presented a spoof version to him with articles written in *Economist* prose.

Daniel Franklin, the Washington bureau chief, is regularly assaulted or complimented on the Georgetown dinner party circuit.

"Owing to the anonymity of the articles, one tends to get less individual feedback, but I find that people comment in particular on the Lexington column," he says.

The truth, I suspect, is that *The Economist* is leaving Britain and its increasingly insular preoccupations behind and becoming a genuinely international magazine which is read more avidly in Brussels, Washington, Tokyo or Hong Kong than London.

As one of Britain's success stories, the paradox of *The Economist* in the 1990s is that its stature is now more celebrated abroad — particularly in the United States and increasingly in Asia — than at home.

Once a must for the chattering classes, it has become their guilty secret. They know they should read it, but somehow they never quite make the time.

"If YOUR assistant reads *The Economist*, don't play too much golf," says the advertisement for *The Economist* in its appeal to the upwardly mobile movers and shakers in politics and business. "Not all mind-bending substances are illegal." Still deadlier: "I never read *The Economist* — management trainee. Aged 42".

With the witty advertising devised by Abbott Mead Vickers, sales of *The Economist* have risen throughout the past three decades. It has become a status symbol, looks good on an office desk, impresses the boss and is Britain's most successful political and business magazine.

Simultaneously printed and published in London, Holland, Switzerland, the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore, it sells 280,000 copies a week in North America,

The British voice of authority the chattering classes ignore

130,000 in mainland Europe and 65,000 in Asia.

Its profit last year of £18 million would delight most British national newspapers. Its journalists, the last in Britain who work in a genuinely collegial environment, were rewarded with a 30 per cent bonus.

Yet in Britain, it is not only 42-year-old management trainees who don't read *The Economist*. One reason is the sheer weight of weekend reading now required of the well-informed politician, businessman or journalist — above all



the job of ploughing through the jumbo Saturday and Sunday papers developed over the past decade. *The Spectator*, *New Statesman* and *Tribune* all have to be read. Add in *The TLS* or the *New York Review of Books* and the *London Review*

of Books, or *Prospect* — the best new magazine since the death of *Encounter* — *Private Eye*, *The Oldie*, and all the pamphlets from think-tanks such as Demos, and there is scarcely time to denounce Gaza or play with the child-

ren. *The Economist* is also daunting. There were 136 pages last week, compared with 64 in *The Spectator* and 56 in the revamped *New Statesman*, both of which — and particularly *The Spectator* — follow Fleet Street in believing that readers nowadays need entertainment as much as information.

So Hampstead and Islington dinner parties are much more likely to be discussing Paxman, Humphrys or Naughtie, Jenkins, Marr, Young or Johnson (Boris or Paul) than any column in *The Economist* — mainly because *The Economist* persists in its policy of anonymity. Jenkins and Marr became names to bandy at dinner parties only when they left *The Economist*.

Yet even in Britain, whatever the views of the chattering classes, *The Economist* is on a roll. At £2.20 a week, it sells about 105,000 copies, air miles ahead of *The Spectator* or *New Statesman*. They don't pay that if they're not getting

something from it," according to Andrew Knight, who scorns the sour grapes of Fleet Street about the magazine he edited from 1974 to 1986.

Journalists fail to understand the function of *The Economist*, he says. It is not just a newspaper. It is also a news magazine offering digests of international news. For readers who want to remain well informed about, say, America, overseas news or international markets, it is a must read offering original, intelligent insights.

Journalists on *The Econo-*



mist say amen to that. Its profitability gives their journalism self-confidence now absent from the broadsheets, they say, and since they are not involved in Fleet Street's fierce circulation wars, they do not need to condescend to middle-market readers. So they have a licence to be

How nicely will these ads do?

Giles Coren on American Express's 'globalising' campaign

The airing of a new American Express commercial next Monday will see the end of an era, as a £20 million campaign bugles the last post for one of the most repeated catchphrases in the annals of advertising lore.

Gone are the cringe-worthy interviews with very rich people explaining how the card helps them to spread their piles of cash around more easily. Gone is the close-up of the turquoise card with the holder's name and all-important membership date.

And gone, reportedly for ever, is the seminal early 1980s utterance, first mouthed by a toothy telephoneist nearly 20 years ago: "That'll do nicely."

For American Express is no longer just a charge card. It is a brand. And its new commercial is based on the same indeterminate lifestyle suggestions that have habitually been used to sell anything from low-calorie drinks to shaving foam or tampons: people ab-

By 2000 we hope to achieve our global vision: to be the world's most respected service brand. We are not just a green card."

Indeed, the card does not feature at all. This, apparently, is all part of "globalising" the advertising campaign. Only 40 per cent of it was shot for the British market (red telephone boxes in green valleys etc); the rest is directly imported American schmaltz, and common to the campaign all over the world.

The upside of this intellect-numbing turn, of course, is that we no longer have to listen to Anita Roddick saying: "I go into villages..." and telling us how much she likes ethnic smells. "I know some people in the office cringed a bit," says Mr Shaw, "but that was more because of her persona than the advert. I think."

So there was no hope for Ms Roddick, Sir Terence Conran and the adventurous travel-agent chap? "We tried to play around with the Quality People" campaign," says Mr Shaw, "but it was not going to work with our new objective — it was too focused on the charge card." It did, though, provide instant association with the company, something the bland new commercial struggles to do.

"We've spent a ton of money on the new campaign," Mr Shaw continues, "and the visuals — which are very original and high quality — will tell you instantly that it is American Express. But these commercials will take us away from the idea of American Express as an elitist thing for high-flying executives, and into the idea that it is something that can be useful to anybody."

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NEWS

Mrs Clinton accused of lying

■ Senate Republicans released a massive report on the Whitewater affair that amounted to the most damning indictment of a First Lady in American history.

On issue after issue, the Senate Whitewater committee's Republican majority accused Hillary Clinton of wrongdoing, directly challenged her truthfulness, and said aides had perjured themselves to protect her. Page 1

Blair to reverse workers' rights policy

■ Tony Blair was heading for a further confrontation with trade unions after signalling that a Labour Government would not increase workers' rights. Speaking in Bonn, the Labour leader heralded a radical shift in the party's employment policy by warning that unions and workers would not be guaranteed extra protection under Labour. Page 1

RSPCA infiltrated

Thousands of field sports enthusiasts have infiltrated the RSPCA in an attempt to halt the charity's 20-year campaign against fox and deer hunting. Page 1

What explosion?

An elderly and partly deaf man emerged from the wreckage of the bombed Arndale Centre in Manchester after sleeping through the explosion. Pages 1, 5

Adams pressure

John Major and Tony Blair intensified the mounting pressure on Gerry Adams to deliver an IRA ceasefire or be banished forever from the Northern Ireland peace process. Page 2

Armed rapist

An armed rapist dragged a 16-year-old girl from her boyfriend at gunpoint as they strolled through a Hampshire wood. The boyfriend managed to raise an alarm. Page 3

Dunblane 'Hitler'

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, removed his ten-year-old son from one of the Dunblane gunman's clubs because it resembled the Hitler Youth. Page 6

Rush for divorce

A surge in divorce in the next two years was predicted by lawyers as separating couples rush to get to the courts before the reforms become law. Page 8

Pub toast to £70 million

■ Michael Cannon, formerly a Berni Inn chef, was toasting the £70 million he made by selling The Magic Pub Company to Greene King, the Suffolk brewers, for nearly £200 million. It was the second time in three years that Mr Cannon, 55, had achieved business success. In 1993 he netted £26 million by selling Devenish, his first pub company. Page 1

Rubens challenge

The National Gallery has agreed to a scientific test of Rubens's *Samson and Delilah*, after a group of artists challenged its attribution. Page 11

War warnings

Israel's Prime Minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, unveiled his right-wing Government amid Arab warnings of war. Page 13

Kohl's favourite

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, gave the most important signal yet that he has transferred his affection from John Major to Tony Blair by giving him an 85-minute audience. Page 14

General's promotion

A new political force was born in Russia after President Yeltsin appointed Aleksandr Lebed, a former general and the third placed presidential candidate, National Security Adviser. Pages 14, 15

Mussolini mystery

The ghost of Mussolini returned to haunt Italy with the allegation that the dictator was shot in a farmyard by Luigi Longo, who went on to become head of the Italian Communist Party in the 1960s. Page 16

Church fire attacks

Two black Mississippi churches four miles apart were destroyed by fire. The previous night churches in North Carolina and Georgia were attacked. Page 17



England's best-known umpire, Harold 'Dickie' Bird, at Lord's before his last Test which starts tomorrow. Cricket, page 45

PSBR rises: Hopes of tax cuts in the next Budget were dented by a higher than expected public sector borrowing requirement of £3.2 billion in May. Page 21

Copper probe: Investigations into the \$1.2 billion Sumitomo copper scandal moved onto a criminal rather than a civil footing in America with the appointment of a grand jury by the US Attorney's office in New York. Page 21

On the buses: British Bus, the UK's third largest bus operator, is being acquired by Cowie Group for £282.3 million. Page 28

Markets: The FT-SE 100 closed 5.1 lower at 3,756.4. The pound fell from 85.8 to 85.6, falling 17 cents to \$1.5438 and .61 pence to DM2.3387. Page 30

Football: France beat Bulgaria 3-1 to reach the quarter-finals of Euro 96 as winners of Group B. Spain also qualified with a 2-1 victory over Romania. Page 49

Cricket: Raymond Illingworth was considering his position as chairman of the England selectors after he was fined £2,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board. Page 52

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the holder and No 1 seed, was given a tough draw for Wimbledon. He opens against a fellow American, Richey Reneberg. Page 50

Racing: The Scottish-owned Bijou D'Inde beat Ashkanari, the unbeaten French 2,000 Guineas winner, in the St James's Palace Stakes on the opening day of Royal Ascot. Page 47



Music matters: To coincide with the National Music Festival, readers of *The Times* offer their views on the state of musical life in Britain. Page 38

Coward revived: At the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith, Mike Alfreed has staged a new production of Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. But are these clever lines beginning to show their age? Page 40

Cotton remembered: The latest biographical musical is *Wake! Wake!*, a tribute to the band leader Billy Cotton. Page 40

Aldeburgh premieres: Twenty years after the death of its founder, Benjamin Britten, the Aldeburgh Festival still remains a composer's festival, with several notable premieres this year. Page 40

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILM**
Geoff Brown reviews the new action thriller *The Rock* (left), starring Nicolas Cage and Sean Connery

■ **BOOKS**
Malcolm Bradbury on Jay McInerney and other reviews of new writing

FORECAST

□ **General:** England and Wales will have rather more cloud than of late, but still be mainly dry with sunny spells. The east coast will be cloudy with occasional drizzle. Later in the day, the southwest may see some showers breaking out. Winds will be light and the air a little cooler.

□ **Scotland and Northern Ireland** will be mostly dry with sunny spells. Northern and eastern parts of Scotland will be rather cloudy with occasional drizzle or light rain. Winds will be fresh in the north.

□ **London, SE England, Central S England, Midlands, S Wales, Central N England:** Dry with broken cloud and bright or sunny intervals. Wind light to moderate, mainly northerly. Max 19C (66F).

□ **E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders:** Rather cloudy with occasional drizzle or rain. Wind moderate northerly. Max 18C (61F).

□ **Channel Isles, SW England:** Dry and sunny at first, a few showers developing later in the day. Wind light and variable. Max 19C (66F).

□ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland:** Dry with bright or sunny intervals. Wind light to moderate northerly. Max 18C (64F).

□ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Rather cloudy, with occasional rain or drizzle. Wind moderate to fresh northwesterly. Max 15C (59F) in south; 12C (54F) in north.

□ **Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** Dry with bright or sunny intervals. Wind moderate northerly. Max 14C (57F).

□ **Outlook:** Outbreaks of rain in the east and south, otherwise dry, sunny spells.

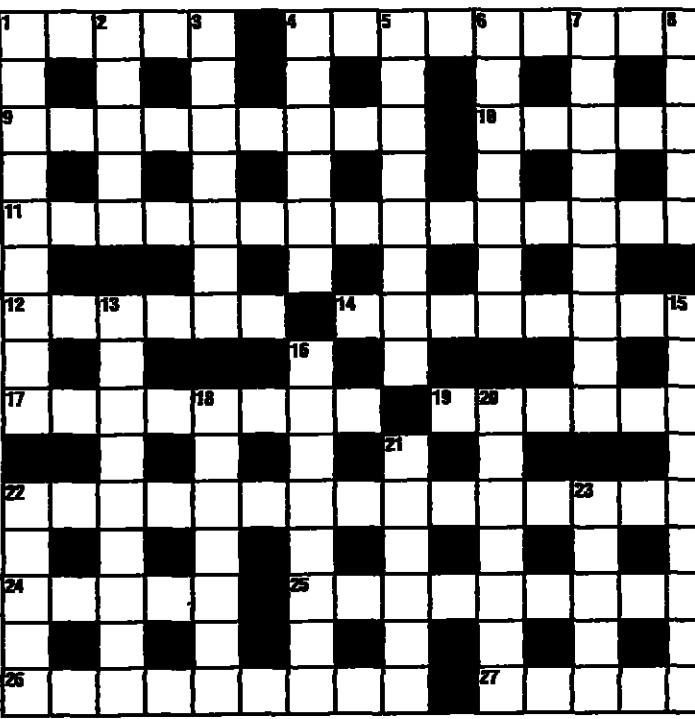
□ **Pollen forecast:** Scotland, northern Ireland, Northern Ireland, North Wales, low; East Anglia, low to moderate; Midlands, London, moderate; South East, moderate to high; South Wales, South West, high.

44 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=drizzle; f=fog; g=gale; h=hail; i=rain; sh=showers; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder.

ABROAD

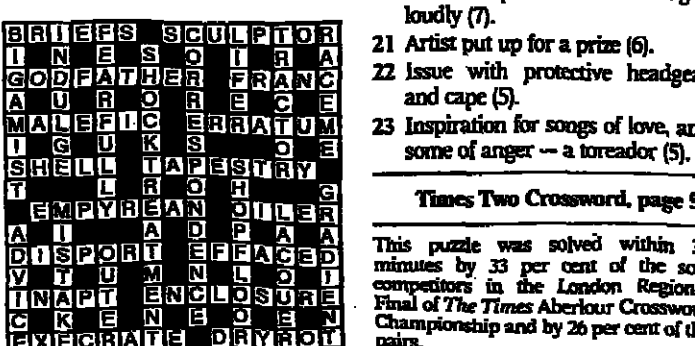
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	23-31	17-23	1-3
Alexandria	27-31	20-26	1-3
Amman	21-30	20-26	1-3
Baghdad	27-31	20-26	1-3
Bangkok	28-34	20-26	1-3
Beijing	27-31	20-26	1-3
Bombay	27-31	20-26	1-3
Buenos Aires	27-31	20-26	1-3
Calcutta	27-31	20-26	1-3
Cairo	27-31	20-26	1-3
Cardiff	27-31	20-26	1-3
Chennai	27-31	20-26	1-3
Cebu	27-31	20-26	1-3
Dhaka	27-31	20-26	1-3
Dubai	27-31	20-26	1-3
Edinburgh	27-31	20-26	1-3
Hong Kong	27-31	20-26	1-3
London	27-31	20-26	1-3
Los Angeles	27-31	20-26	1-3
Madrid	27-31	20-26	1-3
Manila	27-31	20-26	1-3
Moscow	27-31	20-26	1-3
Mumbai	27-31	20-26	1-3
New Delhi	27-31	20-26	1-3
New York	27-31	20-26	1-3
Paris	27-31	20-26	1-3
Rangoon	27-31	20-26	1-3
San Francisco	27-31	20-26	1-3
Singapore	27-31	20-26	1-3
Tokyo	27-31	20-26	1-3
Winnipeg	27-31	20-26	1-3
Zurich	27-31	20-26	1-3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,198



- ACROSS**
- After merger of firms, have a drink (5).
 - Quick to pass the amendment (9).
 - Volunteers rejected praise—that's characteristic (9).
 - A short first play (5).
 - Harris and Co. met in a bar, the one that's been done up (5,3,2,1,4).
 - See about the empty place (6).
 - Set table in a fashion, showing restraint (4-4).
 - Time to reserve an updated publication (8).
 - Book reveals after a month eggs have turned (6).
 - Become fond of somebody—female with railways to run (4,2,4,5).
 - Devout pope, filled with love (5).
 - An aroma—it can make a woman loved (9).
- DOWN**
- Whipped, sing badly (9).
 - Supply queen, perhaps, and king (5).
 - For sustenance, worker eats fruit (7).
 - In French city, a down-and-out (6).
 - Fantastic mincepies—I removed a sample (8).
 - Where to find water monster supported by conservationists (7).
 - Serial featuring a poet carried by rail (4,5).
 - Spot on demand (5).
 - Drink taken after drug engenders severe measures (9).
 - Political leader, a head following Eastern philosophy mostly (9).
 - Pass along one road as a settler (8).
 - Cloth needs tack to hold it up (7).
 - Partnership's accountant laughs loudly (7).
 - Artist put up for a prize (6).
 - Issue with protective headgear and cape (5).
 - Inspiration for songs of love, and some of anger—a tormentor (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,197



Times Two Crossword, page 52

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 33 per cent of the solo competitors in the London Regional Final of The Times Crossword Championship and by 26 per cent of the pairs.

Preview: Vampire bats are making trouble and so is a pet poodle. *Absolutely Animals* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). Review: Lynne Truss on a life-or-death drama from Australia. Page 51

Push-me-pull-you

Like John Major, Mr Blair is proving adept at telling each side what it wants to hear. Page 21

Russia's Mr Clean

If Mr Lebed's popularity does swing enough votes to win Mr Yeltsin a second term, that will only be the start of Russia's next battle against the rot within. Page 21

Fire mountains

Even sophisticated 20th-century man draws back at times from tempting the gods. Page 21

SIMON JENKINS

The lesson the IRA has learnt over these two years is that a British Government only jerks its attention at the sound of a bomb. Page 21

ALAN COREN

Once, if a man banged his thumb with a hammer, he cried "Damn!" This, of course, upset bystanders who hitherto had heard nothing worse than "Damn!", but pretty soon even children were crying "Damn!" which meant that, if thumb-hammerers were adequately to express their feelings, "Damn!" had to be pressed into service. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

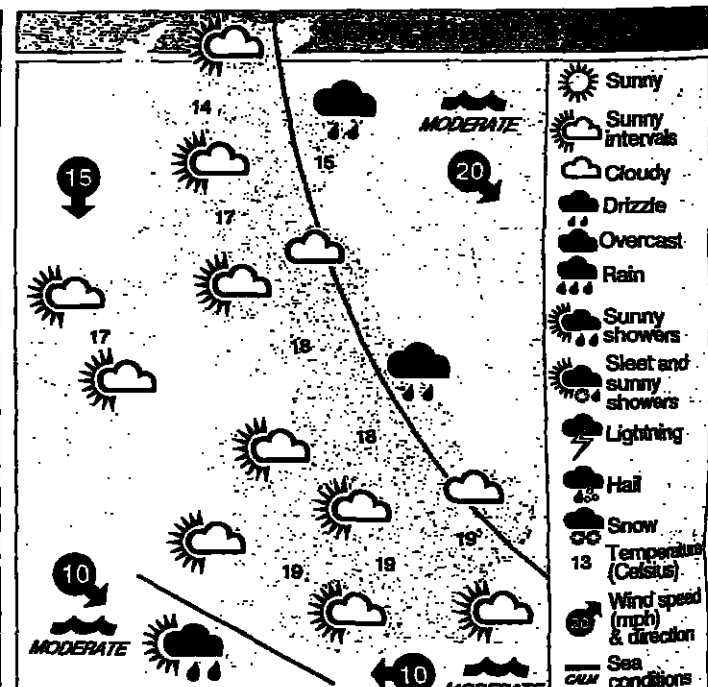
Labour's equivocal support for the Government's policy of non-cooperation snacks of the pseudo-patriotism and opportunism of Harold Wilson at his worst. Page 12

SIMON BARNES

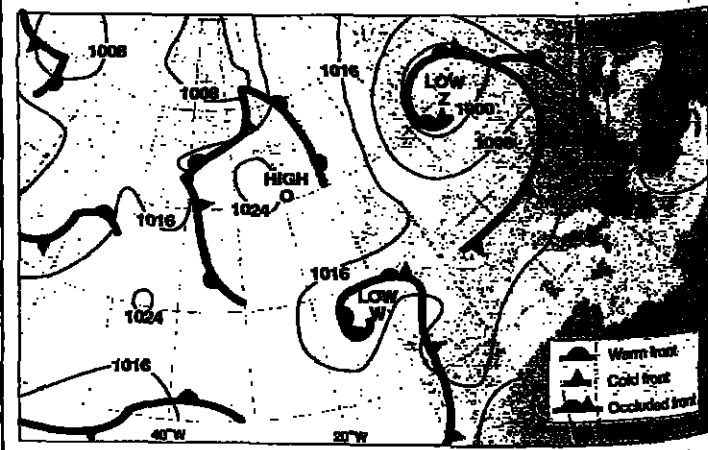
Perhaps you think that it is inconsistent to call Paul Gascoigne a nitwit one week and a genius the next. So it is; but the inconsistency is not in this newspaper but in Gascoigne. Page 50

Major-General Sir Cyril Collins, secretary of Central Chancery; **Genoaldo Bufalini,** novelist; **Sir Niall Lynch-Robinson,** naval officer. Page 2

Export of animal feed: BBC; **sanctuary for torture victims,** the Pastum Diver; **architecture.** Page 21



Changes to the chart below from noon: High O will build slowly and be slow-moving near Iceland. Low W will be slow-moving and fill slightly. Low Z will be slow-moving over Scandinavia.



Today's weather forecast for various locations. The table shows temperature, wind speed, and cloud cover for each location.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	14-18	10-15	1-3
Edinburgh	10-14	10-15	1-3
Birmingham	14-18	10-15	1-3
Manchester	14-18	10-15	1-3
Cardiff	14-18	10-15	1-3
Belfast	14-18	10-15	1-3
Sheffield	14-18	10-15	1-3
Nottingham	14-18	10-15	1-3
Leeds	14-18	10-15	1-3
Coventry	14-18	10-15	1-3
Exeter	14-18	10-15	1-3
Gloucester	14-18	10-15	1-3
Reading	14-18	10-15	1-3
Southampton	14-18	10-15	1-3
Worcester	14-18	10-15	1-3
York	14-18	10-15	1-3
Lincoln	14-18	10-15	1-3
Nottingham	14-18	10-15	1-3
Leeds	14-18	10-15	1-3
Coventry	14-18	10-15	1-3
Exeter	14-18	10-15	1-3
Gloucester	14-18	10-15	1-3
Reading	14-18	10-15	1-3
Southampton	14-18	10-15	1-3
Worcester	14-18	10-15	1-3
York	14-18	10-15	1-3
Lincoln	14-18	10-15	1-3
Nottingham	14-18	10-15	1-3
Leeds	14-18	10-15	1-3
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Southampton	14-18	10-15	1-3
Worcester	14-18	10-15	1-3
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Leeds	14-18	10-15	1-3
Coventry	14-18	10-15	1-3
Exeter	14-18	10-15	1-3



FACILITIES 34, 35

Ring changes on the Royal Navy's ships



ARTS 38-40

Whither music — or wither music? Readers respond



SPORT 45-52

First-day form in fashion stakes at Royal Ascot

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 50, 51

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 1996

Budget tax cuts still expected

Borrowing to miss target set by Clarke

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is almost certain to overshoot its public borrowing target after only two months of the tax year, reflecting both disappointing tax revenues and signs that the Treasury is losing its grip on spending.

The public sector borrowing requirement in May was £3.2 billion, somewhat more than the City had been expecting in spite of being flattered by £1.1 billion of privatisation proceeds. Another element to the disappointment yesterday was that the April PSBR, originally reported as £3.5 billion, was revised up to £3.2 billion.

Excluding privatisation money, the deficit in May was £4.3 billion, worse than the total of £4.1 billion in May last year. Taking the first two months of the tax year together, the PSBR has been a cumulative £6.7 billion, an improvement on the £7.8 billion recorded at the same stage last year, but largely because privatisation proceeds came in earlier this year compared with last. Taking out privatisation, this year's borrowing over two months is actually £100 million

higher than last year. Although the City is broadly cynical and believes that the Chancellor will still make net tax cuts in November's Budget, if only a modest £2 billion to £3 billion, economists believe that this is not justified economically.

Even before yesterday's higher than expected figures, an average of 43 outside forecasts suggested that the PSBR for this year will total about £27 billion. This is already well above the Chancellor's forecast in the last Budget of £22.5 billion. City economists believe that Kenneth Clarke will have to raise his PSBR projection when he unveils his Summer Forecast on July 9 at least to this level, where the independent consensus lies.

However, some forecasters were already pencilling in an even larger overshoot yesterday. Kevin Darlington, of House of Commons, the broker, said that he was forecasting a PSBR this year of £30.5 billion, fully £8 billion more than the Government's current estimate. Mr Darlington noted

that the Government had already overshoot on borrowing last year, that there were extra demands on spending such as the BSE crisis, and that growth was expected to be slower than the Government's 3 per cent forecast. Mr Clarke is expected to revise this down next month.

Andrew Smith, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that yesterday's figures call into question the Chancellor's claim that public borrowing is on a downward trend and under control. "It is disturbing that the underlying trend of public borrowing, excluding privatisation receipts, is now running ahead of last year's poor performance," he said.

Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said: "The miserable state of the public finances should scupper the Government's plans for big pre-election tax cuts, but we must hope that they do not cut taxes anyway and cause an even bigger fiscal crisis."

There appear to be problems on both revenues and public spending. Although VAT payments seem to have recovered from last year's undershoot, income tax, corporation tax and non-VAT customs duties are all well below the Treasury's targets and need to accelerate significantly, according to Michael Saunders, of Salomon Brothers, if the PSBR is to fall close to the Treasury's current forecast.

Spending — as measured by central government net departmental outlays — was up 3.3 per cent against May a year ago, well above the 1.2 per cent gain for the full year that the Treasury wants to see. In addition, the financial position of local authorities was much worse than a year ago. Last year, local authorities were in the black to the tune of £600 million in May. This year, the equivalent figure was £100 million.

Tempos, page 30

Greenbury gets £1m in pay and option profits

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SIR Richard Greenbury, the chairman of Marks & Spencer, last year joined the elite group of British businessmen who received more than £1 million in pay and share option profits.

Sir Richard, who chaired the Greenbury committee on directors' remuneration, saw his total remuneration edge ahead £9,000 to £316,000 in the year to March 31.

His total reward was pushed over the £1 million mark by a £266,000 gain on exercising share options, compared with

£91,000 in the previous year. Overall, 12 Marks & Spencer directors made total gains of nearly £2 million on exercising share options during the year.

Of this, nearly £1.5 million was netted by the company's top five directors. According to the company's annual accounts, Keith Oates, deputy chairman and finance director, was the second highest paid director, with a total pay packet of £524,000.

Mr Oates also made a £317,000 gain on exercising share options.

Overall, the total remuneration, excluding share option gains, paid to the group's directors slipped from £5.8 million to £5.7 million.

The company lifted pre-tax profits 7.2 per cent to £993.7 million and raised the dividend paid to shareholders by 10 per cent.

Sir Richard, 59, has been with the company for 42 years. According to the company's annual accounts, if he retired at 60 would be entitled to a pension of £423,000 a year.

This amount would fall when he reached state pension age. His annual pension entitlement has increased from £399,000 last year.



Greenbury: edged ahead



John Conlan, left, and Graham Coles, finance director, expect to create 1,400 jobs

First Leisure set to expand

BY OLIVER AUGUST

FIRST LEISURE, the bingo and bowling group, yesterday announced its biggest expansion programme, creating 1,400 jobs over the next 18 months.

The group also reported half-year pre-tax profits of £18.1 million up from £17.2 million a year earlier. Turnover rose to £83 million from £71 million.

"Right across all our businesses, it is the most extensive expansion we have ever embarked on," John Conlan, the chief executive, said. "The new

openings will have a very major effect on the bottom line of First Leisure."

Four new nightclubs and seven new bingo halls are scheduled to open in 1997, with construction under way or expected to start soon.

In its fitness division, a centre is under construction in Coventry and will open in August. Three other centres around the country are to open next year.

Following the latest trends, First Leisure is expanding its

Brannigans chain of bars with live music. And design work for a Snowdome — an indoor real snow slide — is almost complete, and suitable sites are being sought.

First Leisure said it was still affected by competition from the National Lottery. "The sort of people who come to our bingo halls are the same sort of people who buy scratch cards. But at least people no longer stay at home on Saturday nights to watch the draw," Mr Conlan said.

Ostrich business ordered to be closed

BY ROBERT MILLER

INVESTORS who spent millions of pounds buying ostriches from the controversial Ostrich Farming Corporation must now wait to establish their ownership of the birds, which can cost up to £14,500 each, after the High Court yesterday ordered that the company be wound up.

Mr Justice Lightman said after the two-day hearing that the craze to cash in on ostrich farming was a "fashionable device for the fleeing of investors". He also called for an investigation into the "shadowy and dubious individuals" involved in OFC and added that millions of pounds of investors' money had been diverted from the company which was "used as a milk cow by people up to no good".

OFC is also the subject of a formal investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. At Easter, Michael Pugh, the Official Receiver who is the provisional liquidator for OFC, visited seven farms and satellite sites in Belgium. He found 3,000 ostriches bought by UK investors. Each bird was supposed to have been electronically tagged with a number unique to each investor, but investigators from Mr Pugh's office have no clear record of who owns which bird.

The Official Receiver last night promised to call a meeting of OFC creditors within two weeks to outline the position. In the meantime he will use funds recovered from OFC to pay for the upkeep of the birds in Belgium. Mr Pugh is to make a similar application to the courts to use funds recovered from Pinstrup Farming Corporation, another ostrich company, to which he was appointed provisional liquidator on Monday.

Stephen Whitmore, of Wilsons, the Salisbury law firm representing an action group of OFC investors, said: "The crucial matter now is that the Official Receiver clear up the position as to who owns which ostrich as quickly as possible." The court heard that OFC took £2.85 million from investors last year, rising to £4.3 million a month this year. The judge said OFC's sales literature was a "comprehensive bunch of lies and half truths".

Pennington, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET BRIDGES

FT-SE 100	2758.4	(-5.1)
Yield	4.62%	
FT-SE A All share	1884.59	(-2.62)
Nikkei	22332.40	(+87.02)
Dow Jones	5656.47	(+3.69)
S&P Composite	685.24	(+0.08)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	87 1/8%	(86 3/4%)
Yield	7.05%	(7.07%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	104 1/4%	(104 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.5437*	(1.5435)
London	1.5438	(1.5435)
DM	2.3384	(2.3432)
FF	7.9421	(7.9555)
Sfr	1.2620	(1.2612)
Yen	165.27	(165.20)
Index	85.5	(85.8)

US DOLLAR

DM	1.5157*	(1.5213)
FF	5.1435*	(5.1622)
Sfr	1.2450*	(1.2535)
Yen	108.00*	(108.55)
Index	92.7	(92.7)

Tokyo close Yen 108.10

COMMODITIES

Brent 15-day (Sep) \$18.05 (\$18.10)

GOLD

London close \$384.85 (\$384.59)

* denotes midday trading price

Cowie buy

Cowie Group has acquired the privately owned British Bus Group, the country's third-largest bus operator for at least £282 million, a move that accelerates consolidation in the bus sector. The takeover ends British Bus's hopes of a flotation but will raise about £10 million for Dawson Williams, the company's chairman. Cowie, the largest bus operator in London, may have to relinquish some routes in the capital to avoid a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Page 28

Minorco deal

MINORCO, part of the Anglo-American mining group, has disposed of a 9.9 per cent stake in Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, for about £132 million in a bought deal with SBC Warburg, the merchant bank. Minorco will earn a profit of £27.26 million on its original investment. Warburg yesterday placed more than half the shares with institutional investors. Stock market, page 30

US starts criminal inquiry into copper scandal

BY RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK AND ROBERT MILLER IN LONDON

INVESTIGATIONS into the \$12 billion Sumitomo copper scandal were yesterday moved on to a criminal rather than a civil footing in the US with the appointment of a grand jury by the US Attorney's office in New York. A criminal investigation is also under way in Britain led by the Serious Fraud Office.

The grand jury will examine Sumitomo's dealing in the US and its links with at least two commodities trading firms. David Campbell, a co-founder of Global Minerals and Metals, has been subpoenaed to give evidence. The company said that it would eventually be shown that it had done nothing wrong.

Sumitomo was by far Global's largest customer, and Mr Campbell

had known Yasuo Hamanaka, the rogue copper trader who has inflicted losses of at least \$1.2 billion on Sumitomo. Some copper traders believe that, in its first year of trading, Global earned around \$150 million from its relationship with Sumitomo. Copper central to the Sumitomo scandal is being stored at the Metro International Trade Services warehouse in California.

Sumitomo opened two brokerage accounts in London, at Merrill Lynch and Rudolf Wolff, over which it gave Global power of attorney — thus effectively guaranteeing the firm's dealing in London. Sumitomo said these accounts were set up by Mr Hamanaka without its knowledge, and that they only came to light in

May after an investigation. Both Global and Merrill, however, claim that Sumitomo officials more senior than Mr Hamanaka knew and approved the accounts. After the investigation a senior executive in Merrill Lynch's copper dealing division left the firm. It is understood that the UK's watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, is now studying the role she played.

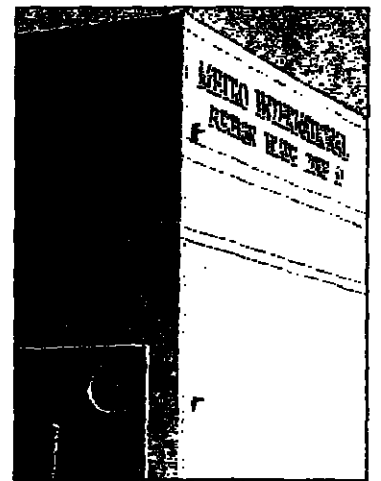
Executives of Global and Birch Brokerage, a New Jersey copper trading firm, are reported to have had close ties with the Winchester Commodities Group and Icani Commodities Group. The SFA looked into Winchester's dealings with Codelco, the Chilean state copper company and recently

concluded that it had no grounds to take action. It is understood that the watchdog is monitoring Icani and other firms operating on the London Metal Exchange.

In London today the first real test of the copper market's resilience to survive the scandal will be tested when Prime date settlement day falls due. This is when the longer-term copper contracts move to within three months of their expiry date.

David King, chief executive of the LME, which will make a statement today on the Sumitomo scandal, said last night: "The copper market this week has been orderly and very liquid."

Pennington, page 29



The Metro warehouse in California

John Ford.

Quintessential film director his epics feature hosts of extras.

John Charcol.

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 - * Cashback in Dec 1999 of £1,000*
 - * Lender's arrangement fee of £298 added to the loan
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JOHN CHARCOL

*Cashback paid 1 year (2000) - 1999-2000 £500 (2000-2001) £1,000 - 2001-2002 £1,500 - 2002-2003 £2,000 - 2003-2004 £2,500 - 2004-2005 £3,000 - 2005-2006 £3,500 - 2006-2007 £4,000 - 2007-2008 £4,500 - 2008-2009 £5,000 - 2009-2010 £5,500 - 2010-2011 £6,000 - 2011-2012 £6,500 - 2012-2013 £7,000 - 2013-2014 £7,500 - 2014-2015 £8,000 - 2015-2016 £8,500 - 2016-2017 £9,000 - 2017-2018 £9,500 - 2018-2019 £10,000 - 2019-2020 £10,500 - 2020-2021 £11,000 - 2021-2022 £11,500 - 2022-2023 £12,000 - 2023-2024 £12,500 - 2024-2025 £13,000 - 2025-2026 £13,500 - 2026-2027 £14,000 - 2027-2028 £14,500 - 2028-2029 £15,000 - 2029-2030 £15,500 - 2030-2031 £16,000 - 2031-2032 £16,500 - 2032-2033 £17,000 - 2033-2034 £17,500 - 2034-2035 £18,000 - 2035-2036 £18,500 - 2036-2037 £19,000 - 2037-2038 £19,500 - 2038-2039 £20,000 - 2039-2040 £20,500 - 2040-2041 £21,000 - 2041-2042 £21,500 - 2042-2043 £22,000 - 2043-2044 £22,500 - 2044-2045 £23,000 - 2045-2046 £23,500 - 2046-2047 £24,000 - 2047-2048 £24,500 - 2048-2049 £25,000 - 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□ Buses move further down consolidation track □ Assigning the blame on Sumitomo □ Whitbread's decidedly mixed double

Room for one regulator on top

WHO would have guessed ten years ago where the bus industry would be today? In 1986, as the centrepiece of bus privatisation and deregulation, state-owned National Bus was split into tiny pieces and sold for peanuts to managers. Councils had to end blanket subsidies to municipal services and streetwise outsiders were freed to start up whatever competing routes they liked after filling a few simple forms.

If the enterprising Cowie group is allowed to buy British Bus this summer, it will pay the going 1996 rate of £1 per £1 of turnover (some have paid more). And that is because three big companies — FirstBus, Stagecoach and Cowie — will then control about 56 per cent of all the bus services in the country.

Cowie reckons its coup, thanks to the SFO spoiling a British Bus flotation, is the last available on this scale. Stagecoach might agree. Its rampant expansion has run so deep into regulatory sands that it is trying to climb out via the courts. But with a couple of others on the heels of the big three, consolidation still has a way to go. In the meantime, a thousand flowers bloomed, faded, died or were pressed between takeover documents. Hail to the exciting era of competition, and goodbye.

Big operators, including National Express coaches, have al-

ready moved into railway services. Three top companies have so far won franchises and it is a fair bet that bus operators will end up owning much of the rail passenger business too, preferably in the same places as their bus services. Indeed if you win a rail franchise, you quickly try to mop up smaller local bus services on the line.

As the Monopolies and Mergers Commission noted after one of myriad investigations into malpractice by the competition authorities, the big bus operators show no inclination to compete against each other. Surprise, surprise. The free-for-all has had the desired effect of cutting subsidies from taxpayers, even though most of the cost was paid for by real wage cuts and higher fares, and the fall in passenger numbers has accelerated.

If you forget the competition shibboleth, however, consolidation may not be a bad thing. It brings order out of the worst kind of predatory behaviour. It allows a monopoly to develop naturally on the majority of routes where there is not enough traffic for two to make money, it

helps pay to replace ageing buses and it holds out some hope for hard-pressed bus workers.

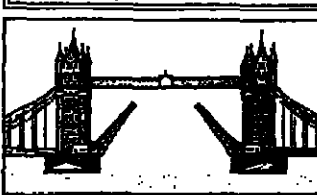
Regulation of conduct, service and fares is inevitable, and logically under the wing of John Swift, the rail regulator. The volumes of detailed assurances now routinely required after a takeover show that it has already arrived in a chaotic, piecemeal way. Even regulation, it seems, is ripe for consolidation.

Up to a point, Lord Copper

JUST as precious few traders on the floor of the London Metal Exchange have ever been down a Chilean copper mine or could name six common industrial uses for the metal, few outside the arcane and hermetically sealed world of the LME have much idea how it works.

One villain has emerged from the Sumitomo affair. He is Mr Five Per Cent himself, Yasuo Hamanaka, who does not appear to have much to say for himself. Everyone else involved is, not surprisingly, putting up a dust

PENNINGTON



storm of claim and counter-claim. The LME was tipped off years ago that all was not well with Sumitomo but has taken up to now to act, say its critics.

True, but the LME, if you believe the Japanese papers warned Sumitomo twice over the past half decade that Mr Five Per Cent was up to no good. The company did nothing. The exchange's powers to act were hampered by the fact that Sumitomo is not a member but trades through intermediaries.

Other regulators were hamstrung because Mr Hamanaka lived in Japan and traded in London using firms based in both London and New York. LME traders may have had little interest in blowing the whistle on

Mr Hamanaka's decade of trying to corner the world market because some were doing rather nicely betting against him.

These are just the sort of overlapping accusations that can be expected in the wake of a serious financial scandal like this. Eventually the truth will come out. But two facts are already self-evident.

The market survived. The price of copper remained within acceptable bounds rather than falling off the bottom of the graph, and the damage on settlement day today to most traders looks set to be limited.

The second is that if no one takes too much credit, the LME can expect to emerge with none at all. The exchange was just beginning to shake off its image as the last of the gentlemen's trading clubs, and now this happens. If policing the market and protecting those who trade on it was outside its abilities, then there is no justification for the LME's continued existence. If there were too many regulators involved, then perhaps there should be one. This column has argued before the need for a

super-regulator. The pity is that the argument will probably be just as strong the next time something goes badly wrong.

A match in name only

AS the great John McEnroe has been known to suggest in his gentle and understated way, there can often be some debate as to whether the ball is in or out. There is certainly a whiff of chalk dust about the status of David Lloyd, tennis star turned highly successful businessman.

Shareholders in Whitbread, which paid rather too much for Mr Lloyd's tennis clubs last year, were treated to a surreal display at yesterday's annual meeting. Sir Michael Angus, the chairman, suggested the situation was "under control", an underwhelming response to recent reports that his company and Mr Lloyd had fallen out.

Meanwhile, a story-faced David Lloyd was sitting on his racket some feet away. He had been rather more outspoken three weeks ago in an emotional

address to some of his staff. He told them he was leaving.

His plans are important to Whitbread shareholders because of the £200 million that the group paid for David Lloyd Leisure. £40 million was reckoned to be for him alone, or at least for the continuing use of his name. This Whitbread has, for a quarter of a century. But a public bust-up would not help maintain the useful fiction that he and the clubs are still one and the same.

This is why the two parties are trying to paper over the cracks in public at least, even if in private they may be communicating by lawyers alone. Eventually, Mr Lloyd will have to clarify his position. He may want to run the clubs, but Whitbread has its own management team in. He can continue as a figurehead, as the company would prefer. Or he can walk. But the present tie-break cannot continue forever.

Wing and a prayer

EQUALLY surreal is the latest from the ostrich wars. There may be 5,000 of the wretched birds on the loose, as investors hope, in which case each might get his or her promised feast. More likely there are far fewer. However large the herd, its shepherd must now be the Official Receiver. Whoever said accountancy was boring?

Carpetright continues to expand as profits soar

BY CARL MORTISHED

CARPETRIGHT, the rapidly expanding retailer whose chairman is Lord Harris of Peckham, achieved a 28 per cent boost to pre-tax profits last year but the rise to £25.2 million was not enough to impress the City and Carpetright shares fell 6 per cent to 585p.

New stores helped to fuel a 31 per cent rise in sales to £185 million and the company intends to use its debt-free balance sheet to expand the chain from 200 sites to 260 by the end of April next year.

Lord Harris said yesterday that Carpetright had maintained growth in a very depressed market and increased its market share to 12 per cent. "Our aim is to achieve 30 per cent of the market over the next few years," he said.

He said trading since the start of the financial year in

May was above expectations. Carpetright increased sales from existing stores by 13 per cent during the year to April 30 and the company expects to benefit in due course from signs of recovery in the housing market.

City analysts said the results fell about £1 million short of their profits expectations. The expense of launching new stores cost Carpetright £1.6 million last year, including the creation of two new brands, Carpet Depot, the out-of-town superstore format, and the Premier Carpet concession format. By the end of April, the group had opened 37 Premier Carpet concessions and nine Carpet Depots, while Carpetright has added a further 18 stores.

The company is spending £13 million to build a further 25 Carpet Depots and Lord Harris reckons there is scope for 70 across the country. Another 30 Premier Carpets will open by April as well as 25 more Carpetright outlets.

Carpetright finished its financial year with net cash resources of £13.2 million. The company is paying a total dividend of 14.5p, up 38 per cent on the previous year after earnings of 22.3p, up a third.

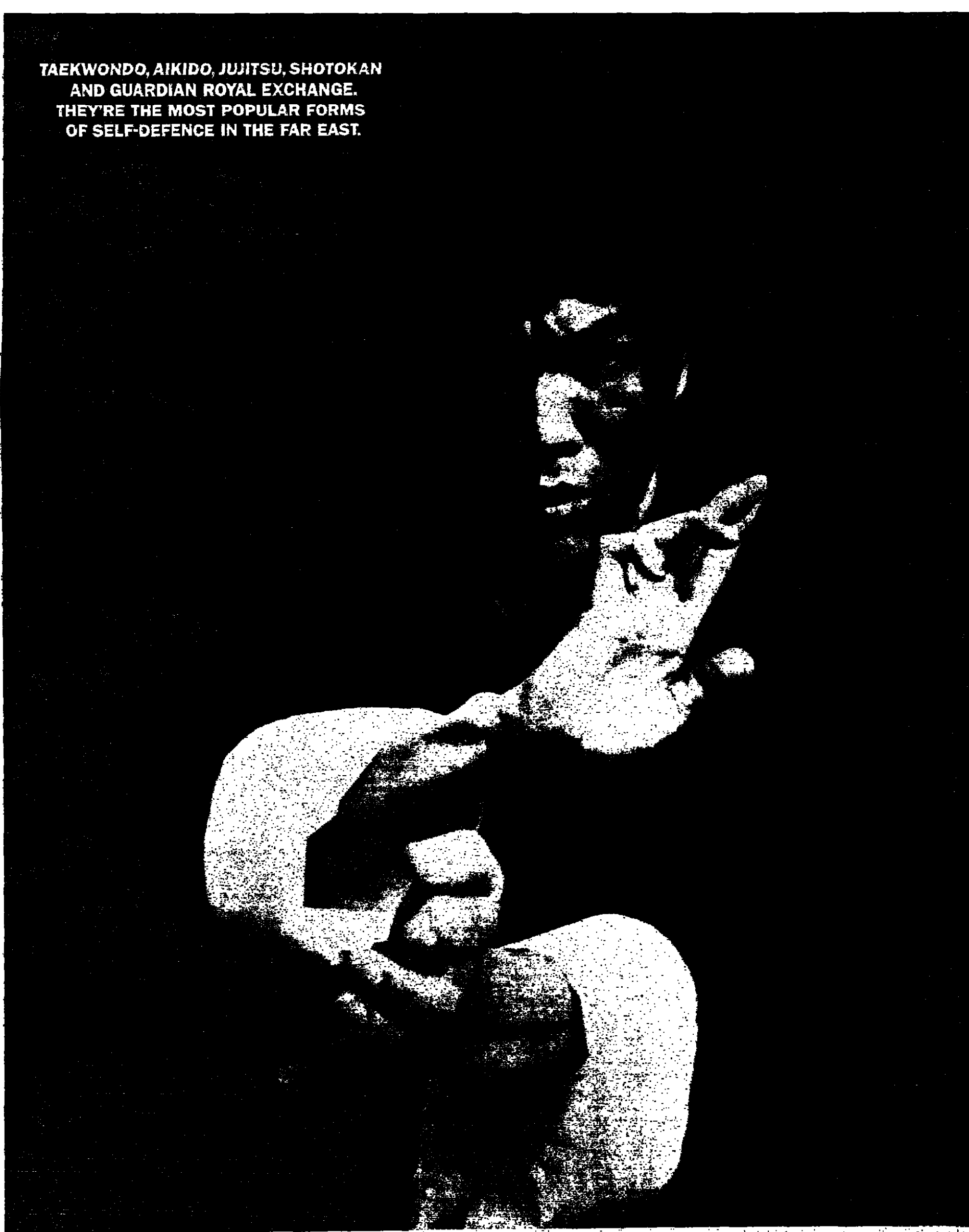
Carpetright invested £18 million in its business last year but strong cashflow enabled the company to end the year with net cash in the bank.



Harris: growth maintained

Tempus, page 30

TAEKWONDO, AIKIDO, JUJITSU, SHOTOKAN
AND GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE.
THEY'RE THE MOST POPULAR FORMS
OF SELF-DEFENCE IN THE FAR EAST.



KINGDOM OF MOROCCO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS CONCESSION OF THE CASABLANCA-EL JADIDA- JORF LASFAR MOTORWAY INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

The Ministry of Public Works launches an international open tender for the prequalification of bidders interested in the concession of the Casablanca - El Jadida - Jorf Lasfar Motorway. This 120 Km motorway link represents the continuity of part of the network already constructed (Kénitra-Rabat and Rabat-Casablanca) and the one still under construction (Kénitra-Lamache and Fes-Rabat). The concession implies the successful bidder (concessionaire) will take charge of carrying out the detailed and tender design engineering studies, constructing the motorway Casablanca-El Jadida-Jorf Lasfar and operating it for a certain period of time to be defined later.

This tender is open to Moroccan or foreign corporate bodies, companies, banks and financial institutions, public and private corporations, alone or associated in joint ventures, and having satisfactory technical and financial references.

The prequalification application documents may be obtained by any interested bidder from the Direction des Routes et de la Circulation Routière of the Ministry of Public Works. The application for prequalification will be made by answering the questionnaire of the prequalification documents, and the duly filled in prequalification documents are to be sent along with a registration application, not later than July 31, 1996 at 6.00 PM to the following address:

Direction des Routes et de la Circulation Routière
B.P. 6226 Rabat Institut-Rabat-Morocco
Tel: (212) (7) 71 32 46/44/48/38
Fax: (212) (7) 71 32 59/61

A briefing session is scheduled to be held on July 1st, 1996 at 8H30 AM at the Direction des Routes et de la Circulation Routière. Companies interested in attending this briefing session are requested to apply by June 24, 1996 at the latest.

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industry are feeling the benefits of our worldwide expertise, as well as the numerous life, motor, and home insurance customers. As a multinational company which manages assets of over £18 billion, we're a force to be reckoned with, even without Karate chops and flying drop kicks. **BETTER INSURANCE FOR THE WORLDLY WISE**

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THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

European choice

THE Prime Minister has Rupert Hambro to thank for today's turnout at a lively hall in the city. Determined to make his positioning speech on Europe before flying to Florence on Thursday, John Major approached the chairman of J.O. Hambro & Co and head of the Society of Merchant Traders to the Continent at the eleventh hour in search of a suitable platform.

Among the committee members of the society — founded in 1801 — are J.O. Hambro colleague David Brooke, Amschel Rothschild, and Michael Wentworth-Stanley from Cazenove. "We are the chosen group," says Rupert, whose cousin Lord Charles Hambro, is both chairman of Hambro plc and treasurer to the Tory party.

Going Dutch

THE benefits of being owned by a European parent company extend far beyond the balance sheet. Ballast Wiltshire, the construction group born after the Dutch contractor Ballast Nedam bought Wiltshire last year, secured 40 seats for last night's Euro 96 match at Wembley, where England took on Holland. The Dutch construction team flew in yesterday for a pre-match bite at the company's Harmondsworth offices near Heathrow, which boast the oldest tide barn in the UK, and returned the same night.

Plan pays off

THE Co-operative Bank in Manchester flew into action after Saturday's bomb, putting into practice a contingency plan established after the IRA bombing in 1992. Seven hundred staff from the bank's headquarters in Balloon Street, which is only 250 yards from the scene of the explosion, have settled down at desks dotted around the city, as far away as Salford and Stockport. The bank hopes to return to its original offices opposite Victoria Station tomorrow.



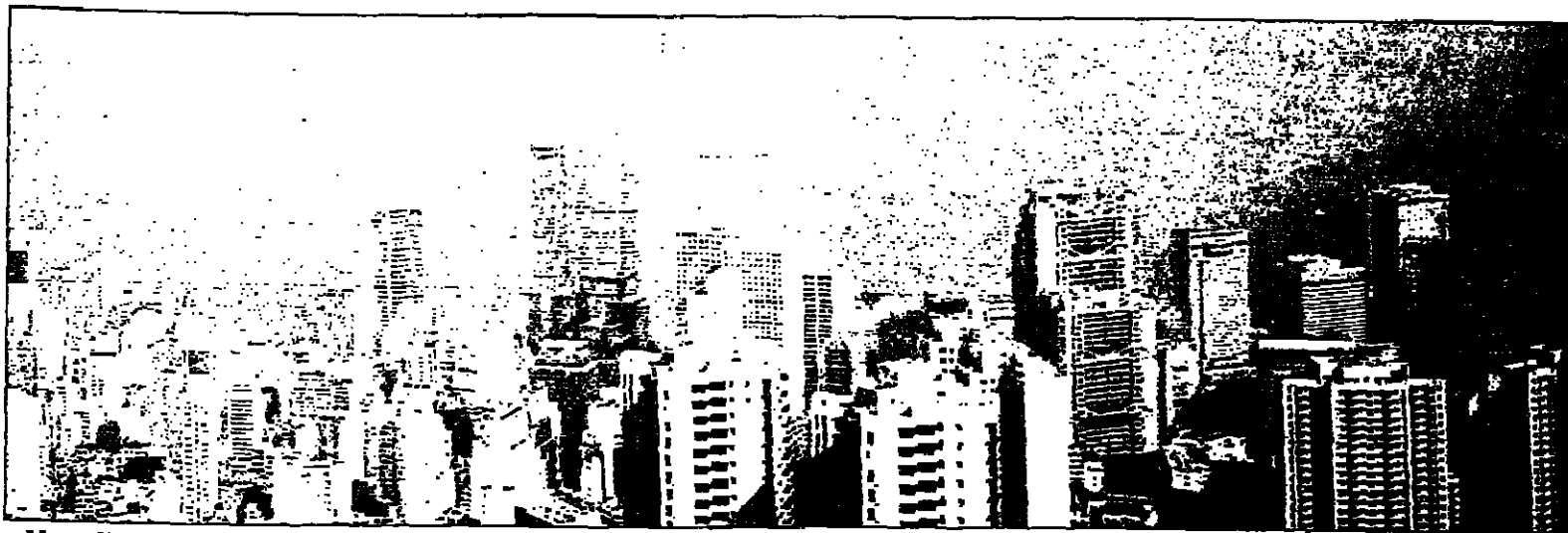
"Pass me another paracetamol"

Dropping in

ONE hundred City employees from firms including Barings, Hill Samuel and SBC Warburg will be throwing themselves off the 150-ft historic tower of St Lawrence Jewry today. John Cook, the flower-seller outside St Margaret Patten in the City, the Rev Joy Carroll, the model for the Vicar of Dibley, and Rory Bremner, the comedian, will be among the characters abseiling in Gresham Street, in aid of the Church Urban Fund.

AMONG a team of London chefs invited to Wembley last night by MasterCard were Antony Worrall Thompson and Bruno Loubet. As sponsors of Euro 96, MasterCard invited the fiery chefs for a bite to eat at the Wembley Hilton and a chance to cheer England in its match against Holland. Neither hot dogs nor burgers featured on the menu for the chefs from restaurants including Daphne's, Le Caprice and The Ivy to thank them for their custom.

MORAG PRESTON



Hong Kong has the world's sixth largest government spending chest, a spectacular accumulation of riches for a territory of six million people

China casts a covetous eye over Hong Kong's coffers

Tom Walker on what might happen to the colony's huge reserves after the handover

Chris Patten calls it "the biggest dowry since Cleopatra," while newspaper editors have coined the less arcane "Treasure Island". The sobriquets are not misplaced: £45 billion, the ball-park value of Hong Kong's foreign exchange reserves, is a tidy sum in any language.

In this final chapter of empire, the question on everybody's lips is: can China be trusted not to raid the kitty? The cash has accrued largely because of Hong Kong's phenomenal growth since the Second World War, its position as the world's entrepôt for China, and the Government's ownership of land that has been subject in the past 20 years to the headiest spiral of property inflation ever witnessed.

This winning formula has reaped a sum a third greater than Britain's foreign reserves (£30 billion) and easily sufficient to pay off Britain's annual budget deficit (£32 billion last year). It is the world's sixth largest government spending chest, a spectacular accumulation of riches for a territory of six million people.

Only in the earliest stages of negotiations between Britain and China was there any speculation that the money could be repatriated to Britain; both sides quickly agreed that it rightfully belonged to Hong Kong, and while the handover talks were in their infancy the value of the Hong Kong Government's cash assets was largely forgotten. But then came Mr Patten as governor and his reform programme. Talk of democracy and conditionality rattled China, and the vital element of trust necessary for a smooth transition has long since disappeared.

Now, with just over a year until the handover, economists and academics are becoming wary of China's intentions with this windfall. That China's Government happens to be Communist, secretive and riddled by patronage and corruption does not inspire confidence, especially when party stalwarts in Peking have begun to talk of the reserves as their own.

The most ominous indication came last month when Zhu Rongji, a Chinese vice Prime Minister, said he had few worries about the stability of the Hong Kong dollar post 1997. "Mainland China has foreign-exchange reserves of 90 billion US dollars," he said, "and Hong Kong has more than 60 billion dollars." Then came the slip: "When the two are added together, it exceeds the foreign reserves of the United States." The whole point

of the Joint Declaration, of the Basic Law, of the utterances about "one country, two systems" — of every piece of paper waved about and debated for the last five years — is that Hong Kong's independence as a "special administrative region" (SAR) of China was to be underpinned by a capacity for self-government and financial autonomy. There was to be no "adding together" of the foreign reserves; for 50 years at least, the money should belong to Hong Kong. Peking, saddled with a huge budget deficit, has obviously developed other ideas.

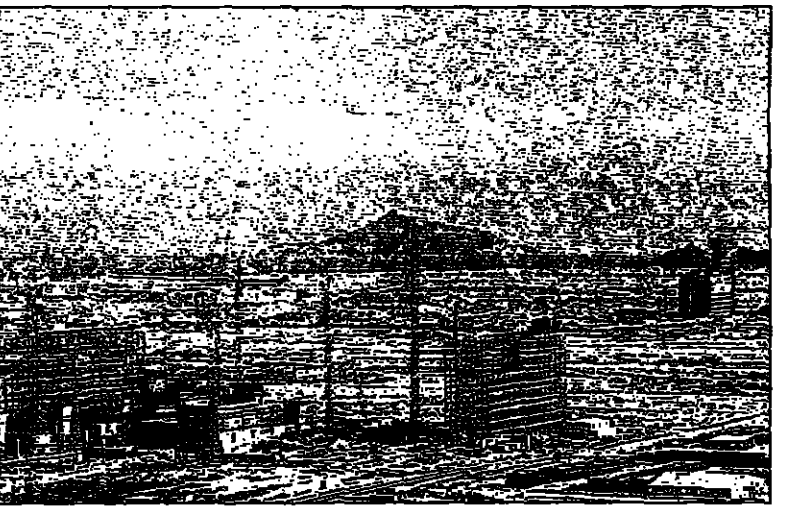
Michael DeGolyer, a veteran Hong Kong watcher and sociologist, says the financial community, cowed by a climate of political correctness in passing comment on China, is "intrigued to terrified" at China's plans. Although Mr DeGolyer, a senior lecturer at Hong Kong Baptist University, believes China would not be so naive as to just grab the cash, he can see many areas of potential "patriotic spending" where the money could quietly be filched away.

China could put pressure on the new SAR Government to invest the reserves in national bonds or pension schemes. Other supposedly autonomous regions of China are forced to take this course, with up to 30 per cent of their ready cash transferred into patriotic bonds.

Because China is currently soaking up so much of the world's capital, Mr DeGolyer says, if it can see a semi-legitimate route to domestic cash it will take it. Unless Mr Patten can pull off a remarkable eleventh-hour rescue of democracy, it is difficult imagining the rubber-stamp legislature being appointed in stages by Peking standing in the way.

Another grey area for spending could be in infrastructure projects linking Hong Kong and the New Territories to China. A massive civil engineering plan to build a railway link to China up the western side of Kowloon and the New Territories could cost more than half a billion pounds, slightly more even than Hong Kong's new airport at Chek Lap Kok; China and Hong Kong are at loggerheads over how to fund the project, but next year China may have found the answer.

Other analysts have even imagined scenarios where China could divert the money to military spending. If it decides Hong Kong's naval defences need bolstering, for example, and ships are ordered, the bill could quite possibly end up with the SAR. What excuse other than that the West is rearming Taiwan is needed? "It is quite conceivable that China will buy an aircraft carrier fleet — something it has long coveted — berth it at Hong Kong's



A rail link could cost more than the new airport at Chek Lap Kok

BUSINESS LETTERS

Industry the loser of Ofgas proposals

From Irene Davis
Sir, As an employee, consumer and shareholder of British Gas, I am most concerned about the latest Ofgas proposals. These proposals appear to be ripping the heart out of a company that has strived to provide balanced treatment of all stakeholders.

I have been employed by British Gas for nine years and can honestly say that I have never worked harder than I do now. Many people in the industry are under immense pressure and stress is now a common occurrence among all groups. I have seen several colleagues crack up and recently one left the company and committed suicide shortly after leaving. These pressures are being caused by trying to maintain an effective and safe environment with too few people. I can go along with change if it is change for the better, but I cannot see the point of change for the sake of change or, in the case of Clare Sportswoods, for career advancement.

She may be trying to champion the cause of the consumer in terms of cheaper gas prices, but I doubt if the consumer will want this at the expense of safety and the livelihood of

thousands of loyal employees whose numbers have already been cut by 25,000 (40 per cent) in the past three years. The proposals now on the table will force British Gas to cut up to 50 per cent of the current TransCo workforce — a further 10,000 people.

As a shareholder, I have watched the price of British Gas drop through the floor due to the uncertainty caused by the regulator, who has seemed to have ignored many of the findings of the MMC and bitten deep into what is already a thin hide. The Gas industry would have a bright future if only it was left alone to get on with it, but I now fear that all the good work that has been done in the past will be undermined by a vicious intent to gain political mileage out of a company that is trying its best to satisfy all stakeholders. The current share price reflects the unstable climate and I would not be surprised if the company had already reached a point where a takeover is imminent. I wonder if this would be a British takeover. I doubt it.

Yours faithfully,
IRENE DAVIS,
12 Merrick Court,
Merchants Quay, Bristol.

Review should be carried out fairly

From Mr Philip G. Rogerson
Sir, Tempus (June 15) stated that British Gas's response to the Ofgas TransCo formula reviews proposals was "strong on presentation" but "fell curiously short of engaging the regulator on substantive issues".

Tempus correctly describes BG's complaint that Ofgas has refused to provide key assumptions about operating costs and the financial models that underpin the regulator's proposals. In fact, Ofgas has also refused to provide the relevant consultants' reports underpinning its proposals on operating expenditure and capital expenditure. Their excuse — that they may be required for an MMC inquiry — is disingenuous and at odds with their claims of transparency.

As to our being "hardly a model of openness, refusing to publish (our) own pricing proposals, which (we) admit would offer less to consumers", we have provided Ofgas and its consultants with everything they have requested. In any event, what is offered to consumers depends on what gas suppliers — not TransCo — are prepared to charge. Our proposals for TransCo

charges are based on continuity with the 1993 MMC recommendations and the current price formula put in place by Ofgas.

British Gas may know that "it could never make cuts that would put public safety at risk".

Can the same be said of Ofgas with respect to the allowable income?

The most disturbing part of Tempus's article was "behind the regulator's proposals is an attempt to recoup some of the huge cashflow from the pipelines that has been reinvested in global gas and exploration".

The TransCo formula review is supposed to be based on an appropriate and fair balance of interests between shareholders and consumers. It should not, as Tempus suggests, be based on the denial to TransCo of recovery of past investment, previously allowed, with income lost being made up by businesses outside of the regulatory ring-fence.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP G. ROGERSON,
Deputy Chairman,
British Gas,
The Adelphi,
1-11 John Adam Street,
WC2.

Lloyd's sums wrong

From Commander G. M. B. Selous
Sir, Perhaps Lloyd's enduring troubles may be attributed to their poor mathematics. On page five of their annual report they state they have 18 council members, but their sums add up only to 16. Page 56 also shows but 16 members. Who are the phantoms?

Yours faithfully,
G. M. B. SELOUS,
Langley Grange,
Loddon, Norwich.

Lloyd's package will not stop recurrence

Meanwhile "the best underwriters who continued to make profits from 1988 to 1992" and those managing agents who take 15 per cent commission on the £2.5 billion-plus profits made in 1993, 1994 and 1995 (with fees that are some £525 million) are contributing a mere £145 million to the £11.4 billion of market losses. Those agents are not without responsibility for the

past. Lloyd's will force through the package using a combination of delaying tactics to ensure successful litigants remain unpaid, threats not to refund the names' own money and the fear that the alternatives are worse.

But this is not an acknowledgement of past mistakes and present injustice, nor does it prevent the same thing happening again.

Yours faithfully,
SIR WILLIAM ARBUTHNOT,
14 Ashburn Gardens,
Kensington, SW7.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Keynes scores first in the Old Saws Test

THE surge of growth just reported in Japan should have Lord Keynes cheering in his grave. Here is a recovery produced by Keynes's own method — heavy deficit spending on public works.

This is widely supposed to be impossible in the modern world: the bond market vigilantes would never allow it. But they have. Meanwhile, the French are proving Keynes's negative message: the futility of trying to balance the budget in a recession. The Commission des Comptes estimated last week that M. Juppe's policies have so depressed the economy that, despite real cuts and higher taxes, revenue is falling nearly as fast as expenditure.

Sound money men, whether of the Maastricht fiscal school or just monetarists, should be coaching in the nets. Tokyo has successfully defied their rules, (and proved, in passing, that devaluation does work in the right circumstances); and the recovery breaks a supposedly immutable law of monetarist economics. It started before the surge in monetary growth which is supposed to precede any upturn. It may be too early to declare a result, though. This was only the first innings; and while two current dogmas should be dropped by the selectors, one remains doubtful.

First, the duds. The practice of fiscal Puritanism has never been as rigid as Thatcherite handbags rules suggest. The French may have forgotten it, and Gordon Brown never has learnt it; but Lord Lawson, and even the Maastricht draftsmen, recognised that deficits may properly rise during a recession. Where high debt precludes actual refutation, there are other ways: the US shows that growth and employment can be sustained even with a tight Budget given enough monetary stimulus.

Current experience, then, does not suggest a world without constraints: simply a more pragmatic approach to policy making. And the strong currency doctrine seems to have retired. We are all devaluationists now — even the Bundesbank.

The irony here is that devaluation only works if somebody does not devalue. So the new orthodoxy may have a much shorter innings than the old: pragmatism wins. But can monetary policy be left to pragmatism? The money growth numbers worrying the bond market so much may reflect technicalities; or something more sinister. Glitches are easy to suggest, such as the backwash of Japanese currency intervention. Or it could be a build-up of institutional illiquidity as fund managers, both in Wall Street and in this country, as fund managers fear that the bond market is past its sell-by date, and the equity bull market may be approaching it. The institutions have always been a problem: John Florde, who managed British money 20 years ago, once wailed: "Why should I worry just because the pension funds are dithering?"

The case for worry, though, is simple: one reason why the money growth numbers are high is that both the US Fed and the Bank of Japan are supporting their own bond markets, and thus creating money. This tactic breaks one of the most hallowed rules of sound management. It can only be justified by exceptional circumstances, but nobody quite knows what they are this time. The beginning of the story is clear — the banking crises in both countries — but not the end.

The proved remedy for a sick bank is a change of management, followed by a diet of safe lending to the Government. But what happens when the banks want to resume normal business? The "sound" rule is to let them sell their bond holdings in the market; this will mop up money, raise interest rates, and so assure order. But both central banks seem to doubt that their patients are strong enough for this self-administered cure. If they are right, growth will reduce Government borrowing, and normal rules enforced in happier times. If they are wrong, stand by for bond market trouble soon, and inflation later.

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£5,000+	3.64	3.70
£25,000+	4.17	4.25
£100,000+	4.41	4.50
£250,000+	4.65	4.75
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£25,000+	3.48	3.50
£100,000+	3.92	3.95
Education Account		
Up to £25,000	3.40	3.45
£25,000+	3.89	3.95
Treasury Account		
Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00
£2,000+	1.00	1.00
£100,000+	2.96	3.00

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax. CAR: Compounded Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments. All rates quoted are per annum.

With effect from the 6 June 1996 Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 5.75% p.a.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 1996

[illegible]

Tony Dawe discovers just how much work it takes to provide the champagne and strawberries at Wimbledon

Anyone for strawberries and tennis?

Chris Gorrington knows a drop volley from a topspin lob, he can tell Yevgeny Kafelnikov from Sergei Bruguera and even understands the rules of croquet, but ask him about facilities management and he looks blank.

Yet for the coming fortnight, Mr Gorrington will be acting as the most high-profile facilities manager in Britain. As chief executive of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, he is responsible for 85 full-time staff and many hundreds of "outsourced" workers who must play as important a part as the tennis stars to ensure the Wimbledon championships are a success.

In the best traditions of Wimbledon, he sees himself as a club man rather than a manager. He joined the club 23 years ago and believes that while traditions are observed, the facilities at the championships are the best possible.

"When visitors leave at the end of a day, we want them to be able to say that they have had a great time at Wimbledon," he says.

To achieve this, he, his team and the club's committee adopt a British compromise style of management. The kitchen workers,

stewards and office staff who look after the club's 375 full members throughout the year continue to do their jobs, while an army of contractors is brought in to cope with the 28,000 spectators plus players, officials and the media who throng the club grounds for Wimbledon fortnight.

Some of these contracts have run for decades, some have gone out to tender and others have been awarded after recommendations or presentations to the committee. "We don't follow hard and fast rules," Mr Gorrington says. "You have to remember that for most of the year we run as a tennis club with a committee of 12 volunteers but also happen to host the championships with help from the Lawn Tennis Association."

Decisions about contracts are made in the autumn. The best-known contract is held by Town and Country Catering which supplies 12 tons of salmon, 24 tons of strawberries, 200,000 sandwiches and thousands of gallons of drinks from champagne to cola.

"We have been using the company since 1936," Mr Gorrington says, "but it has to justify its position. Our catering sub-commit-



A good deal? The company that provides the strawberries says it never gives fewer than ten a portion, no matter what the size

tee looks into the contract in close detail. There are not many companies, however, which can carry out what is the largest catering operation at any single sporting event in Europe, especially in such a tight space.

A less high-profile but even more vital contract is held by Equity Cleaning Services, which provides 300 staff ranging from court attendants to toilet and office cleaners. "Our contract runs from mid-May,

when about a dozen staff will begin tidying up the place, to the end of August when everything should finally be back in order for the members," Ray Pagliaro, managing director of Equity, says.

He approached Wimbledon officials in 1985 after his company had begun to specialise in outdoor events such as the Farnborough Air Show, was asked to tender and won the contract.

Other major contractors include

Securicor, which provides a large number of guards who are supplemented by service and honorary stewards appointed by the All England Club.

Tickmaster provides turnstile staff and Hertz holds the transport contract, which in turn is outsourced to a company run by Pat Edwards, which recruits drivers to take the players and VIPs to and from the championships.

"That's not all," Mr Gorrington

adds. "We need 120 court coverers in case of rain. 180 ballboys and girls from local schools and temporary staff to help the groundsmen."

The chief executive also knows that if a player goes missing or any of his staff fall down on the job he will be called on to explain why to the world's media. Despite this, Mr Gorrington seems remarkably calm. "The sun helps," he says, thinking of the one factor that can destroy everyone's hard work.

TUPE DECISION

Businesses end long campaign

Business service providers have decided to end their campaign to have contracting out removed from the provisions of the European Union's Acquired Rights Directive, which protects the rights of employees when a business changes hands.

Rodney Hobson writes. This change in the stance of the strongest critic of the directive and of Tupe — Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) — the UK regulations that implement the EU directive, represents a triumph of realism over aspirations. The directive has produced conflicting court and employment tribunal rulings in Britain and on the Continent. The EU has been trying for more than a year to come up with a form of words that would clarify the issue.

Norman Rose, the Business Services Association's director-general, told a London conference on Tupe: "Business requires certainty from the law, particularly in an area such as the Tupe regulations, where confusion has been widespread. We do not believe that the new wording for Article 1.1 proposed — and now to be withdrawn — by the European Commission would achieve the desired effect of excluding contracting-out. Instead, it would simply reopen commercially damaging and costly legal uncertainty."

Similarly, we believe that any amendment, drafted in suitable terms for inclusion in the directive and for the agreement of all member states, would be unlikely to achieve the required certainty.

Mr Rose said that case law developed over the past two years had consolidated the view that Tupe did apply to contracting out. "If the directive were to be amended, companies that had inherited liabilities under Tupe would be unable to pass them on. These costs could be substantial as they would relate to all previous periods of employment before the transfer."

Correction

THE Resman computer system (Facilities Management, May 15) at the Royal Liverpool Hospital NHS Trust is neither scheduled for replacement nor weak on reporting. Its interfaces are not limited to parking and security. Resman is working satisfactorily at more than 60 other British sites.

What Olympians will eat

THE OLD South has seen nothing like it since General Sherman fed his Yankee army off the land while marching through Georgia. Rodney Hobson writes. Aramark, the catering specialist, needs 61,958 steaks, 3,333lb of black-eyed peas and 11,000 baguettes to cope with the invasion of Atlanta this summer. Aramark will be feeding 15,000 athletes at the Olympic Games from July 19 to August 4.

More than 100,000 hours of planning by chefs and nutritionists has resulted in a world menu of 550 recipes designed for contestants from 197 countries. American hens will be obliged to lay 576,000 eggs.

To make European contestants feel at home, Aramark will supply 7,850lb of spaghetti and 20,000 French rolls. Vegetarians can munch their way through 15,498lb of fresh asparagus, 25,000lb of mushrooms and 17,998lb of tomatoes. Salads will contain 46,560 bunches of spring onions and 30,000lb of radicchio. As a change from spaghetti, 34,000lb of rice will be on the bill.

For the sweet course, 23,342 pints of strawberries will be tempting contestants but 2,656 custard pies are deemed sufficient.

Aramark will prepare and serve more than five million meals at the Olympic Village and eight other venues.

How the Americans are running the show around the world

A LEADING international tennis championship such as Wimbledon will obviously require the services of facility managers, but even small town clubs and modest-sized hotels are now seeking FM services to arrange tennis tournaments and coaching.

Tony Dawe writes. Peter Burwash International, based in Houston, Texas, has grown to become the largest tennis management company in the world with 85 professionals staffing 50 sites in 23 countries. It now has a rival with the formation of Tennis Professional International (TPI) which describes itself as a "tennis facility management organisation".

Founded in California by Lloyd Schweiger, a tennis professional turned entrepreneur, it aims to take on all the tedious tasks which tennis club officials and hotel activities managers hate. It will

Players in the FM game

arrange individual coaching and classes, attempt to make them interesting and plan any type of tournament from a club "round robin" to an open championship.

One of its first contracts is with Cap Juluca, the award-winning resort on the British West Indies island of Anguilla, where John Miller is the TPI professional. Aged 21, he spent two years on the

international circuit before deciding he would prefer to coach and manage.

"It's a tremendous game and I hope to get as many guests as possible enjoying it," he said. "Coaching can be fun and still improve ground shots and volleys and help players with doubles strategy."

"Competitions can bring out the best in players and in the long run I would like to attract some top names down here to coach and play alongside guests in pro-am tournaments."

The arrangement with Cap Juluca is that the resort takes half the coaching and playing fees in return for providing and maintaining all-weather courts. TPI took over the contract from Peter Burwash but has a long way to go before it can claim, as Burwash does, to have "reached four million tennis players in the past 30 years".

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مركز من الأعمال

Rodney Hobson on how privatisation is helping the Royal Navy to use its crews more effectively

Shipshape with the contract cleaners

Shiver me timbers! Landlubbers are swabbing the decks of *The Iron Duke*, the Royal Navy's super frigate. Care Services, which has been managing facilities at the Devonport Dockyard at Plymouth since 1991, is keeping vessels shipshape while they are in port.

"Perry" Mason, Care's on-site manager, explains: "Modern technology has meant that numbers of staff on board have diminished. But keeping the vessel clean can be difficult. When a ship's staff go alongside, the first thing they want to do is to put right any technical problems. They do not want to be swabbing the decks."

"At sea, anyone on board may have to help with cleaning. It is a mundane job but everyone accepts that it has to be done. But when the ship is alongside, the crew can be free to do other essential work. All military personnel are trained to high technical standards and it is a waste to have them cleaning decks all the time."

Care's work includes cleaning

toilets, bathrooms, kitchens, eating and drinking areas, laundry, lockers and passageways. Responsibility for the entire superstructure includes radar, missiles and gun turrets, lifeboats and funnels.

Care's work has included cleaning *The Iron Duke*, the Type 23 frigate that was in Devonport this month for a week's scrubbing and polishing, patrol craft and nuclear submarines. Equipment used ranges from high-pressure jets and high-speed rotating brushes to rags (always cotton) for hand-drying polished surfaces. Cleaning liquids and disinfectants are environmentally friendly.

The RN was once the biggest employer in the South West and the hit the Devon town hard. Mr Mason was in the Navy for 23 years. His real name is Jim, but with his nickname "Perry" he is probably better known in Devonport than the American lawyer-detective whose name he has adopted. Most of his staff are also ex-RN. Having so many naval people on

board helps. Care sends staff to clean ships at other locations, such as Penarth in Glamorgan, where there is a training squadron, Dartmouth, and Loch Goyle in Scotland. It has also secured work in private ship-repair yards in the South West.

Staff often work in cramped conditions such as the engine room or conning tower. A specially made folding ladder is the only practical way to get into some of those tight corners. Mr Mason says: "The staff are aware of emergency procedures, such as what to do in a fire. If they were down in the bilges and the generator failed, the ship would be in darkness. They would rely on their training and knowledge to get out."

Any materials used have to be cleared by the Ministry of Defence. Detergents can react in the atmosphere of a nuclear submarine; toilet cleaners can devastate a ship's sewage-treatment plant.

Mr Mason says: "We have a great relationship with the crews. It helps that many of us are ex-Navy."



"Perry" Mason adds a polished finish to HMS Cumberland at the Devonport Dockyard

COMPANY MOVES

Keeping houses in order

BUILDING maintenance work on the Kinson housing estate has been awarded by Bournemouth Borough Council to Haydon Group, part of Johnson Controls. The work will range from mending light switches to structural repairs on the 2,500 low-rise dwellings.

□ Mowlem FM has won the commission to manage the Public Record Office at Kew, west London, including a new £35 million extension. The buildings incorporate complex mechanical and electrical plant to achieve the stringent storage conditions required to preserve the national archives.

□ Security takes a large slice of FM budgets, so it is no surprise that more than 2,000 visitors are already pre-registered for the Business Security Exhibition at Islington, north London, in October. Details 0171 727 7380.

□ Brandon Hire, the Bristol-based tool and catering equipment hire company, has paid £2.1 million for Poole Rentequip to spread its coverage along the South Coast.

□ Management of the computer system that handles run-off business at Nicholson Leslie, the insurance broker, has been outsourced to Datastore.

□ A five-year, £3 million deal to manage facilities for Mobil, the oil company, at three buildings has been secured by Procord.

□ The £21 million design, build, finance and operate contract for the A50/A564 link road between Stoke-on-Trent and Derby has been awarded to a consortium formed by BICC, Philipp Holzmann and WS Atkins.

□ Entries are invited for this year's Office of the Year award scheme run by the British Institute of Facilities Management in association with *The Times*. The awards are for purpose-built, existing and small offices in the UK occupied before April 1 this year, and for innovation, FM teamwork and environmental contributions. Details and entry forms from the BIFM Secretariat, 67 High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1AA (tel: 01799 508068).

Move the desks, not the staff

YOU HAVE heard about "nomad" office workers, staff who use any spare desk or meeting room. Now there is a new concept: nomad office furniture. The claim is that it will boost corporate creativity.

Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising agency, has just moved from its cellular offices in Soho's Pulteney Street to a new open-plan office in nearby Kingley Street. An essential ingredient in its cultural revolution will be "nomad" meeting tables on castors.

BBH had functioned in the traditional manner of advertising agencies, with separate departments — planning, creative and accounts management — talking only to themselves. Now the company is redesigning the way its staff work and the space in which they do so.

Martin Smith, the managing director, says: "The new layout will enable a switch to project-based team working."

Mixed teams of 16 workers, with planners and account managers working together for the first time, will sit at clusters of workstations. Each cluster is arranged around a central space, and in the middle

A new approach to workstation layouts

of these magic circles will stand the nomad meeting tables at which the entire team will gather for brainstorming sessions. Alternatively, for smaller impromptu meetings, anyone can grab a bit of the table and wheel it nearer to their workstation: the nomad table is composed of separate sections that fit together.

Lesley Kohler, space planning manager at Total Office Group, masterminded the arrangement. She says that keeping each team together at all times, whether they are working individually or as a group, is more conducive to creative work.

BBH's new furniture is called the TNT system, just launched by the manufacturer Steelcase Strafor. TNT stands for *toujours nouveaux trucs* (always new tricks). The workstations consist of a simple leg frame on to which the serpentine worktops — more space-efficient than the conventional rectangle — clip on and off. James Rich-

ardson, BBH's administration head, says: "You can assemble a workstation in a few minutes, using simple tools."

The TNT system has also been used by the senior retail management of Thomas Cook, who are being decanted to a converted warehouse in Peterborough. Here a "themed" design by Business Design Group, with meeting rooms partitioned by canvas-like tents and suspended banners like giant sails, is expected to fire up staff creativity.

Nomadic office furniture has its limits, however. Tables on castors may be useful, but who wants to trundle around large storage cupboards full of files? Bulk storage at BBH and Thomas Cook remains firmly immobile.

In the age of electronic communications companies are busily co-locating selected people, as much to simplify their networking as to make them spark off each other better. It looks as though the physical office will remain, which undoubtedly is cheering news to facility managers.

LAURA BLAIR



Shifting desks: clusters of workstations can be arranged around a central space

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MUSIC 1

From the perilous financial condition of our professional symphony orchestras ...

MUSIC 2

... and questions over the high ticket prices charged in opera houses and concert halls ...

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC 3

... to concerns over the quantity and quality of music teaching in schools ...

MUSIC 4

... and a grumble about derivative pop: Times readers offer pungent views about British music

Bang the drum, or sound the alarm?

To celebrate this month's National Music Festival we asked readers for their views of British musical life. The response was overwhelming. Here is a selection of your letters

ORCHESTRAS

COMPARED with our European partners, Britain's public investment in its orchestras is shamefully low. The Berlin Philharmonic receives more than all of Britain's orchestras put together. And let us be clear: investment in the true sense is what it is. The financial return to the Exchequer in taxes far exceeds the investment of public money in grants. The UK music industry earned £1.4 billion in 1993 and paid a total VAT bill of £200 million. It contributes more than £750 million a year to the balance of payments. The Academy of St Martin has even won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

The traditional concert-hall audience suffered from the effects of a prolonged recession. Our orchestras are more accessible in the community than they have ever been, regularly working in schools, hospices, factories and prisons, with disabled people, minority groups and many other sectors of society. As a nation we should recognise their contribution, celebrate their success, and invest in their future.

Libby MacNamara
Director, Association of British Orchestras

ON A good day our orchestras can play the parts off the foreign competition. But they only play their best for the great conductors. Superstars create a buzz and that's what sells tickets. Now the good days are fewer and farther between. London is no longer a must for the top maestros. Abroad they can rehearse in the concert hall and repeat their programme several times. In Britain, four rehearsals can mean four different venues and most concerts are given just once. It's like expecting a painter to work blindfolded, and then to tear up his canvas as soon as he has put it on display.

Hard decisions are required to match the conditions abroad. We need fewer orchestras chasing the same artists, venues, sponsors and funding. John Willan
Head of Music, BBC Worldwide

MY CONCERN is the minimal coverage of orchestral music in the provinces in recent years by the "quality" national press. Consideration by your main competitors has descended to the derisory, while that in *The Times*, though part of a more acceptable classical music coverage, is also negligible. In contrast to their preoccupation with opera, the critics descend on the provincial concert halls, perhaps with the exception of Birmingham's, about as frequently as ospreys alight on the Norfolk Broads.

The financial state of orchestral music is precarious. Most orchestras are grossly underfunded, and all would benefit from the greater visibility offered by the coverage that was considered normal by serious newspapers in earlier decades. It is not enough to celebrate the opening of new halls with "cheers and fanfares". We need to know what goes in there subsequently.

W.E. Marsden
Southport



Concerns about how many opportunities for music-making are offered to children were at the forefront of many readers' minds

ONE obvious reason for declining ticket sales is the almost invariable inclusion of a modern work in the programme. No one wants to listen to them; yet, inexplicably, the practice persists. Potential buyers either have to accept that up to one third of their ticket money will be wasted — or, even worse, they actually have to listen to the thing, since wherever possible it is scheduled so that you cannot leave early or arrive late. You should sponsor a Campaign for Real Music, to publicise and exorcise all events where this abuse continues.

Peter Croft
Cambridge

ALMOST invariable inclusion of a modern work in the programme. No one wants to listen to them; yet, inexplicably, the practice persists. Potential buyers either have to accept that up to one third of their ticket money will be wasted — or, even worse, they actually have to listen to the thing, since wherever possible it is scheduled so that you cannot leave early or arrive late. You should sponsor a Campaign for Real Music, to publicise and exorcise all events where this abuse continues.

Peter Croft
Cambridge

quired, and that classical concerts are forbidding. They are also seen as expensive.

One way of dealing with the present funding crisis, and also addressing the problem of declining audiences, would be a national ticket subsidy scheme, paid for by the lottery. Individuals would be able to register for a nominal fee which would entitle them to a number of free or discounted tickets.

David Cherniak
Conductor, Apollo Chamber Orchestra

I HOPE the National Music Festival gets through to the BBC and ITV planners the notion that live music programmes should be seen more often on television. Everything else is catered for — from soap operas to cooking, travel and sport — except the sight of people making music.

London and the big concert halls are out of bounds for lots of families for travel or cost reasons. Television should be able to fill the gap.

Mrs E. Mumford
Windsor

LET'S have facts, not myths. The first myth is that the increase in seat prices for opera, ballet and concerts puts them out of reach for all but the rich. Yet the price of a rear amphitheatre seat for the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden is 28 times what it was in 1963, while the average earnings index has increased 22 times.

Hardly a death blow to affordability. The second myth is that audiences for classical music and opera are in their dotage. Even if that is true in the stalls and boxes at Covent Garden (a big "if"), it is certainly not true in the balconies at the London Coliseum. At one ENO performance I estimated that less than 10 per cent of the balcony audience was over 25.

Unfortunately, there is no point of contact between the average British citizen and the arts, as there is in Italy or Austria. Children grow up without contact. Even the broadsheets, outside the arts pages, perpetuate these myths and gleefully report £100 seat prices for Covent Garden, as if there is nothing less.

Children are being robbed of their birthright, and it is left to chance contact to expose them to one of the glories of the civilised world. With ignorant parents, and apathy or hostility in the mass media, widespread change can only be wrought within schools. But here the prospect is indeed bleak, for most schools give little priority to music.

Bill Kincaid
Walton-on-Thames

term consequences of the BBC's decision in the early Seventies to segregate all classical music on Radio 3. Radio 4 is largely a music-free zone. This would not matter so much if the balance were redressed once children got to school. But too many fall into the hands of teachers for whom classical music is an alien territory. Or at any rate they see it as elitist, discriminatory or judgmental to attempt to widen their pupils' cultural horizons. Such attitudes fly in the face of the fact that, at least until they are exposed to peer group pressure, children tend to react positively to new experiences.

We need to guarantee all children, irrespective of their parents' listening habits, the chance to hear classical music while they are still young enough to enjoy it without prejudice. This could — with lottery money or a far-seeing benefactor — be achieved simply by equipping every early-years classroom with a radio permanently tuned to Radio 3 or Classic FM, with instructions that it be switched on for a minimum length of time each day. Background music? Yes. But so, for many children, is pop music. Why not give them the chance to discover that other patterns of aural wallpaper exist?

Elizabeth Roche
Tiverton

AT THE Children's Music Workshop we are concerned that primary-age children in inner-city areas, even though they are geographically close to centres of excellence, are not being introduced to high-quality professional performance and are not encountering music at school or exploring their own capacity for creation and performance. Yet recent research in America claims that offering frequent musical experience or training to 5 to 7-year-olds, and particularly sustaining this over two years, improves students' general attitudes towards learning.

Mrs Bottomley acknowledges that the arts can be of value in helping children to develop as individuals, and in learning to work collaboratively. The new lottery guidelines (in consultation now) may begin to reflect the need for the arts to be offered to primary-age children. The arts have a special role in social cohesion, which we all now see as an urgent priority in inner-city Britain.

Ann Blaber, Jane Fountain
Children's Music Workshop

My next course was to approach the Student Loan Company, but I discovered that they only made loans to postgraduates taking a postgraduate certificate of education. I have since applied to bursaries, charitable trusts, foundations, companies and individuals. Fifty-six letters have not produced one positive result. I am left wondering just how many Rachels there are around, and why music (and dancing and acting) is discriminated against when funding can be found for purely academic subjects.

J.J. Osborn-Smith
Bognor Regis

POP VALUES

IT IS several years since the British pop scene has looked this bad. The Sixties and Seventies have been scoured by the Britpop movement, so now the bands are ripping off groups from the early Nineties. The problem is that many bands don't understand the difference between being influenced and pure plagiarism.

Meanwhile, Oasis have spawned a series of bands who succeed only because of the Oasis connection. Their records sell because there are a lot of misguided people who will buy whatever Noel Gallagher likes at the moment. If a hit song today is not a straightforward cover version, then it is a karaoke session masquerading as a new song. These unintended rip-offs lead to the thought that perhaps every possible combination has been used up, and that we are destined to hear the same songs with slightly different lyrics again and again.

Sarah Przybylska
Chelmsford

POP may have its problems — and the drug issue is one of them. But can anybody tell me why pop, which is largely supported by kids with little disposable income, should be totally unsubsidised while classical music and opera, enjoyed mostly by wealthier, middle-aged people, should always be tottering from crisis to crisis and need propping up by the State? If classical music is as good as it is cracked up to be, it should be able to pay its way. But whenever a promoter like Harvey Goldsmith makes it profitable, the classical music establishment pours ridicule on his head. This snobbery is part of what's wrong with British music.

J.A. Baxter
Brighton

VOLUNTEERS

THE National Federation of Music Societies represents the interests of 1,700 amateur British choirs, orchestras and concert promoters. These societies promote over 7,500 concerts and spend £155 million each year — £11 million of which goes towards engaging professional colleagues. Our members often provide the only classical music available in many communities, and their breadth of programme planning would often be considered far too risky for professional promoters.

We welcome the much-heralded changes in the way that lottery funds are to be distributed, so that access, participation and projects for youth can be supported. A properly funded voluntary sector would be able to equip its members to undertake audience development work, because they are best placed to encourage those who have never taken part in music to do so. They know their communities and they can put the lottery money back where it originated.

Russell Jones
Chief Executive, National Federation of Music Societies

WHAT is the one thing that can lift my spirits after a long day at work, and the stop-go grind of the misery line? Why, an evening of barbershop singing. Let's get those chords ringing, let's fill the hall with harmonies, let's forget the washing-up. Tonight I'm a barbershopper. Weekends away for competitions. Singing in the queue for lunch. Midnight feasts in the dorm, giggles unlimited. Singing on stages, in churches, on trains and boats and planes. People from all walks of life: just blow that pitch-pipe and we will unite in our love of singing.

Marion Morley
Carshalton Ladies Barber-shop Harmony Club

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THEATRE 1

Very flat, Noël: even the clever lines in Coward's *Private Lives* sound a little tired these days



THEATRE 2

Another band show: Billy Cotton's life and music are celebrated in *Wake! Wake!*

THE TIMES ARTS



OFFER

Puccini going for a song: see our Theatre Club panel for the best opera bargains



TOMORROW

How does Nicolas Cage measure up to Sean Connery? Read Geoff Brown's verdict on the new films

THEATRE: Coward's classic shows signs of wear; an evening with a remarkable man; the life of a showbiz troupier

Too clever by two-thirds

Coward's comedy of bad manners is an imperishable work: we know that, we've said so for years. Indeed, decades, ever since 1930. But during Act II there stole over me the nervous suspicion that within the lifetime of actors now at RADA this play may not seem anything like so imperishable. It may, indeed, have perished.

This forecast could be too pessimistic. The opening act is admirably crafted, dovetailing the duologues of the two couples so artfully that what we learn from one complements what we learn from the other, but never leaves us complaining of repetition. First Elyot and Sibyl, newly married, stroll on to the balcony of their Devonshire hotel and all she wants to talk about is his first wife, Amanda. Then it is the turn of Victor and his new wife to appear on the neighbouring balcony. Of course his wife is Amanda, and of course what he wants to talk about is her marriage to Elyot.

The inevitable meeting occurs. Amanda and Elyot realise they have never stopped loving each other and race off to Paris together. Victor and Sibyl emerge in search of them and the act rounds itself off with her repeating the lines about a yacht in the harbour with which the act began. In 50 years' time this act could still be popular as a perfect little one-act play.

There is more to be said of the predicament the couples find themselves in, and Coward says it in two further acts. Much that he says is unexpected and beautifully phrased, but now repetition does come in, and swiftly, when Amanda and Elyot are rollicking around in her Paris flat, quarrelling, making it up, quarrelling again.

Yes, Coward wants to show us how difficult it is for two people, both alike in flippancy, to cope with those moments when the brittle talk snaps and the insecurity floods forth. But the point is made, and made and made again.

After their other halves reappear, the interlocking duologues echo those in the opening act, but not so engagingly. We hear the unmistakable hiss of air escaping from that which was once a marvellous balloon and is now un-

Private Lives
Lyric, Hammersmith

stoppably drifting down to earth.

The cast of four seen last week ponderously working through *Jude the Obscure* enjoy a better outing with the Coward. The lack of a fifth performer to play the maid means some lines vanish, and she might have been usefully employed sweeping up the wrecked cushion that Simon Robson's Elyot handles too malevolently. He and Abigail Thaw's Amanda are required

to stride through feathers for the remainder of their scene. Robson's performance, emphasising the little boy, is oddly concerned that we should all hear him. Thaw's voice swoops like a proud, swift bird, and she develops a good gesture of arms falling wearily to her side, too exhausted to argue further.

Geraldine Alexander and Martin Marquez make a comical Aunt and Uncle Sally. Marquez with his stiff neck and chin tucked in, backing away from Amanda as though her head was encased in something radioactive.

The director, Mike Alfreds, forgets the moonlight, and a divided balcony set by Paul Dart means that Sibyl, most improbably, must scramble over the barrier for her cocktail. Most of the clever lines still sound cleverish, but rather, tired around the edges.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Elyot (Simon Robson) and Amanda (Abigail Thaw) swap one-liners in *Private Lives*

Insights from a life of agony

Pain
Royal Court

BARCLAYS New Stages often justifies its boast to be "a festival of the very best in cutting edge performance" — most recently, with Janice Galloway's *Trick is to Keep Breathing* — but seldom as literally as this. Photos of what appear to be long, serrated knives, representing broken nerves or their microbiological destroyers, are projected onto the stage's side-walls. Beside them is a young man who describes what it is like to live, day after day, feeling there are "a thousand pieces of glass piercing the bones, twisting and turning, digging deeper and deeper".

He is Graham Cunningham, who has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis as long as he can recall. The monologue *Pain*, which is performed by him and presented by a Glasgow company called NVA, lives up to its blunt, bald title in two ways. Troubling sounds and images — lurid whorls, pulsating cells, metallic bangs and grindings, even an upside-down figure spinning in the void — evoke the experience of being trapped by

pain. Meanwhile, Cunningham tells us his story in the tones, not of the desperate invalid, but of the dogged survivor.

His mother was drowned in the bath while she was pregnant. His father clearly struggled bringing up two children, one of them seriously disabled and bewildered by his own helplessness. Much of Graham's early life was spent hooked up to machines with bewildering names or being

doctors. But there came a point when he threw away his pills and, he says, refused to accept his status as victim.

He seems to have started thinking of his war with pain as the struggle of his capacity for love with a harsh, punishing world. This took the bizarre form of joining a band whose members billed the iron detritus they found on abandoned industrial estates by way of protesting against Thatcherism; but the effect was cathartic and therapeutic.

Conventional criticism breaks down at this point. What can I say, except that Cunningham's continuing battle with an elusive, unforgiving disease is the more impressive because he does not ask for pity or even much sympathy. He seems to see himself as an explorer, forced by circumstances along cliff-faces he would rather avoid but rewarded by insights and feelings that have verged on the mystical. He and *Pain* merit unequivocal respect.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

Rich Cotton pickings

Wake! Wake!
Belgrade, Coventry

THE bespectacled dance-band leader Billy Cotton, the London lad who made it to the top as a variety-show host on the wireless then the box, has at least one foot in heaven.

Cotton (Roy Heather), in this better-than-average musical stage biog, is hallucinating after the stroke he suffered in 1963. His sickbed, from which he keeps trying to struggle back to work, defying his nurse (Daniel Cole), is adrift amid clouds in a blue sky.

In a mild haze, Cotton is remembering flashes of his life, with his father who belts him; with his schoolmaster who mocks him as a dunce; with Mabel, his long-suffering wife.

With a touch of *The Singing Detective*, Cotton's delirium merges friends and family with the chorus girls and

fairly discreet with Cotton's dirty linen.

Richard Cameron's script is no great shakes. He draws some threads together, mentioning in passing Billy's son Ted named after his brother who also died young, but there is too much sentimentality.

Nonetheless, Mark Baby's direction segues snappily between scenes and avoids tacky glitz. Instead of Cotton's sequined dancing girls we get his mother and Mabel jiving in their aprons. The ensemble are charmingly relaxed, nifty movers breezily harmonising *Why Worry?* The Dave Brintley Band are tightly drilled. You can tap a toe to the tunes but you might be twiddling your thumbs between times.

KATE BASSETT

John Allison on the mixed performances heard at two concerts in the Aldeburgh Festival

Still a composer's festival

However much the Aldeburgh Festival may have changed in the 20 years since Britten's death, it remains above all a composer's festival. A pair of concerts on Saturday featured the music of three very different living composers — Anthony Payne, who introduced his works, Marc Neikrug, who represented the English late-Romantic and the European avant-garde, and Hans Werner Henze, who sent apologies for his absence — while a fourth, the festival's artistic director Oliver Knussen, conducted.

Payne's 60th Birthday Concert in the Jubilee Hall was a

personal occasion performed by his wife, the soprano Jane Manning, and the ensemble Jane's Minstrels. It gave him the chance to present his music in the context of that which influences him: the English late-Romantic and the European avant-garde, represented by Roberto Gerhard's *Libra*, Four Songs by Britten's teacher Frank Bridge, and the original violin and piano versions of Elgar's *Chanson de nuit* and *Chanson de matin*. Though the Elgar came across a little casually, Payne's sister, A Day in the Life of a Mayfly, received a tight performance. It is a fluttering scherzo cum tone-poem, and its frenetic short motifs reflect the modernist influences on Payne's Englishness.

The thoughtfulness so typical of Payne's music was more evident in the spiritual journey of *Evening Land*, a setting of Par Lagerkvist poems for voice

and piano, and in the writing for flute and guitar in two movements from A 1940s *Childhood*, where nostalgia and desolation are evoked in ironically juxtaposed images of war and countryside.

At Snape Maltings, Knussen and the London Sinfonietta were joined by Neikrug, an American pianist-composer who turns 50 this year, for the premiere of his Piano Concerto. The 25-minute, single-movement

piece opened promisingly, with bare, foreboding sonorities from which the piano emerged. But the textures soon thickened, and one emotional wrought climax followed another. Before long it began to sound like a conventional late-Romantic concerto full of wrong notes. Empty virtuoso gestures palled.

Two wonderful ballet scores framed it. The orchestra caught all the swirling colour of Stravinsky's *Scènes de ballet*, in which his Neo-Classicism is warmed by Russian and Broadway influences. Henze, whose 70th birthday is being marked by this Aldeburgh residency, was heard in substantial chunks from *Ondine* (1958). It is a vividly theatrical score, and the story came alive even in concert. Evocative curtain music, throbbing dances, languorous Mediterranean scenes and grand processionals all show Henze liberating himself from the shackles of postwar German music at a time when he also began his association with Britten and Aldeburgh.

Royal National Theatre
Mary Stuart

by Friedrich Schiller,
in a new translation by Jeremy Sams

Isabelle Huppert "Astonishing"

Independent on Sunday

Anna Massey "To die for"

Mail on Sunday

Tim Pigott-Smith "Magnificent"

Observer



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Tue 25 June at 2.15pm
& 7.30pm & continuing.

NT
NATIONAL
THEATRE

Opera now

THE TIMES
THEATRE CLUB

SUMMER of sport? More like a summer of great London opera for Theatre Club members. On June 29, the Coliseum plays host to Steven Pimlott's production of Puccini's well-loved *La Bohème*, and members can save 20 per cent on all tickets (normally £8 to £47) for the 2.30pm matinee performance. Mary Plazas sings Mimì and David Owen is Rodolfo as Pimlott's vision of this romantic masterpiece combines Parisian streetlife with dreamlike recollection. To book, telephone 0171-632 8300. Offer subject to availability of tickets.

Meanwhile, the Almeida Theatre in Islington is welcoming back *Experimentum Mundi*, the hit of last year's Almeida Opera Season. Giorgio Battistelli's score involves a whole Italian village of craftsmen — road pavers, cobblers, smiths and pasta makers — whose sounds build up into a wonderful, vibrant performance. Theatre Club members can save £9 on top-priced tickets (normally £16.50) for the opening night, June 24, with a chance to meet members of the cast after the performance. Tel 0171-359 4404.

On July 13, 16 and 19, club members can experience Verdi's *La traviata* at the Royal Opera House. In Richard Eyre's popular production, an excellent cast is led by the young Greek soprano Elena Kelessidi as Violetta, with the Sicilian tenor Vincenzo la Scala making his debut as Alfredo. Orchestra side stall tickets are £86.25 (normally £115). Tel 0171-304 4000

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.
TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

OTHER OFFERS

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Gaiety (July 10-Aug 31)
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50 to £9.50) for Wed and Thurs evening performances of the all-star *Summer Spectacular*. Tel 01292 61222

SCARBOROUGH
Stephen Joseph (June 24, 25)
● SAVE £3 on tickets (normally £8 to £10) for Stephanie Young's adaptation of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. Tel 01733 370541

NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME
New Victoria (July 1-3)
● Two for one (normally £6.50 to £7.95) for Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Tel 01782 717962

PETERBOROUGH
Key (July 9-13)
● SAVE £3 on tickets (normally £8 to £10) for Stephanie Young's adaptation of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. Tel 01733 52439

WATFORD
Palace (July 1-4)
● TWO for one (normally £11.25 to £13.25) for Peter Ustinov's *Beethoven's Tenth*. Tel 01923 225671

CANTERBURY
Marlowe (July 1)
● TWO for one (normally £7.50 to £13.50) for Alan Ayckbourn's *Absent Friends*. Tel 01227 787787

MORE MUSIC

NOW in its twelfth year, the Luffhansa Festival of Baroque Music has become a major event in London's musical life. Save 25 per cent on seats (normally £18) for two of the concerts at St James's Church, Piccadilly. To book, tel 0171-437 5053 (Mon-Fri, 11am-7pm)

June 19: Flautist Jed Wentz plays works by Vivaldi, Locatelli and Quantz as well as Bach's *Fifth Brandenburg Concerto*.

June 26: A programme of sacred music by Lully and Paolo Lorenzani

The Tragedy of King

Richard III

RSC
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Produced by ALLIED DOMECO

'David Troughton gives a remarkably compelling and poignant performance'

'A big florid production'

Times



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CHOICE 1

Baroque music in Piccadilly: the Lufthansa Festival takes off
VENUE: Tonight at St James's Church

CHOICE 2

Katie Mitchell revives The Phoenixian Women
VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican Pit

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Christopher Bruce brings his Rambert Dance Company to Birmingham
VENUE: Tonight at the Repertory Theatre

CHOICE 4

A feast of fine choral music is featured at the Aldeburgh Festival
VENUE: Tonight at Snape Maltings

Hilary Finch enters another world with the musicians at Wells Cathedral School

From slaves to the rhythm



"From the shady drawing room of the Cedars resonates a strange thrumming of steel pans, gongs and metallophones"

In a corner of Wells stands a gracious mansion, built in 1758 with the wealth derived from the Antiguan sugar estates of the Tudway family. Its Ionic portals and exquisite interior plasterwork were built, as it were, from the blood and sweat of some 500 Negro slaves. "Forty-five pounds is a good price for an able stout fellow," whispers the family records...

Wells Cathedral School has grown up around the Tudway family estate: its history is something both boarders and staff at the Somerset school have literally had to live with. And now, from the shady drawing room of the Cedars, resonates a strange thrumming of steel pans, gongs and metallophones, like the unquiet spirits of a past age.

World music is the latest development in the formidable musical history of Wells Cathedral School. The school's Specialist Music Scheme, founded in 1970 in the wake of the Gulbenkian report, Making Musicians, provides specialist training within the curriculum of a conventional educational school. Wells started with 12 young violinists and now boasts flourishing departments in academic and choral work, brass, keyboard, strings and wind. And world music.

Surrounded by chintzy sofas and parlour palms. Two or three of them are specialists; some have had no previous experience of instrumental music. A minimalist cogwheel of pentatonic melodic sequences is turning from a rack of gongs, a cluster of metallophones, and two sets of bonangs — little gongs on what appear to be their own wooden stands, the bigger the tone values, and the slower the tune. Within a 16-note cycle, the big gong marks the beginning and the end, smaller gongs mark the sub-sections. Suddenly the cogwheel slips, and the music is broken. In my eagerness to master the

technique, I have stepped over an instrument — just about the worst thing you can do in gamelan. The spell is broken. Twelve hammers, wielded by 12 blazer bodies, take up the sequence all over again. The Wells gamelan was made specially for the school in Java last year, and purchased by its Friends of Music. Alison Heath, head of general music and co-ordinator of world music, is thrilled by the way it has enabled general musicians to be involved in their own right, instead of marking their progress in terms of the specialists. The set of West African drums and the Caribbean steel pans work in very much the same way. Each group of instruments is serviced by an annual or

termly visit by a specialist consultant who also provides in-service training for the teachers and tops up student expertise. Asian music could well eventually take its place within the school's specialist scheme. But for now the sitar, tabla, harmonium, Indian banjo, swaramandel (dulcimer) and dholak (two-ended drum) are used in classroom music to enable the techniques of composition to be applied within their own vivid soundscape. It works wonders for improvisation, co-ordination and ensemble skills. Something of those exotic sounds can be heard in a concert at the Barbican on Monday, which celebrates 25 years of the school's specialist

music scheme. But performance at Wells is never an end in itself. The world music department is already offering workshops in local primary schools. A World Music Centre has recently been opened, providing opportunities for people outside the school to take up weekend and holiday courses. "Our whole philosophy," says John Baxter, the Head Master, "is to enable our music to be part of community provision. Increasingly we feel we have a responsibility to put back something of what we've gained."

The Wells Cathedral School Chamber Orchestra and World Music Groups are at the Barbican Centre, London EC2 0JH, 0171 680 8891, on Monday, 7.30pm.

LONDON

CINDERELLA English National Ballet's miniature summer season at the South Bank ends with four performances of Michael Carter's remarkable new staging of the much-loved fairy tale. With sumptuous sets and costumes by David Walker, the evening promises magic for young and old alike. Festival Hall, South Bank SE1 0171-992 4242. Tonight, Thurs and Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

LUFTHANSA FESTIVAL The renowned flautist Jody Waterson returns to St James's with *Musica e Rhetorica*, the ensemble he co-edited. Making its UK debut at the festival, the group offers a feast of Baroque sound with music by Vivaldi, Locatelli, Quantz and Bach. St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1 0171-437 5053. Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE ODD COUPLE After touring Neil Simon's hit comedy throughout America and Australia, Jack Klugman and Tony Randall return to London, playing the two divorced husbands, who end up in a hilarious tangle. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 0171 930 8800. Previews from tonight, 8pm. Opens June 26, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat 8.15pm. Mat, Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

THE PHOENICIAN WOMEN Katie Mitchell's engrossing production of Euripides' lost play of the Trojan War, highly praised players by

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

Lorraine Ashbourne and Lucy Whayrow at Jockies and Antipops. The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 0171-638 8891. Previews from tonight, 7.15pm. Opens June 26, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE The Stables arrive at Snape with a selection of music demonstrating their wide-ranging repertoire of Renaissance, Baroque and 20th century choral works. Under the direction of Harry Christophers, the group offers extracts from an Elizabethan Song Book followed by works by Britten, Stravinsky, Howells and Walton. Snape Maltings, Suffolk, 01728 435543. Tonight, 8pm.

BIRMINGHAM Anzac director Christopher Bruce brings his reimagined Rambert Dance Company to town for two performances of some of contemporary dance's all-time greatest hits. The programme includes the sharp, sick and sexy *Rosebud* — danced to eerie Rolling Stones classics, and *Shakespeare*, which uses popular dance

coriolanus: Steven Ben-off's much-travelled production arrives in London with himself as a snoring, ear-punching legend. Menem, Puddle Dock, EC4 0171-226 2211. Tue-Sat, 7.30pm. Mat, Sat, 3pm. Until July 20.

COMPANY Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of *Sondheim's* *Into the Woods* on a production of *Into the Woods*. Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 0171-369 1700. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat, Wed and Sat, 4pm.

ELVIS Spurred revival of the 30-year-old *Elvis* show. P. J. Proby plays the Vegas Elvis and Tim Whitham plays the Elvis in his prime. Phoenix, Coventry Street, W1 0171-437 5053. Mon-Thu, 8pm. Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

GHOSTS *Isaac's* play play about the lives of the dead, including the ghost of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. 115 Upper St, N1 0171-259 1010. Tue-Sat, 8pm. Mat, Sat and Sun, 3.30pm.

HABES CORPUS Ten hit acts for a night of *Alan Bennett's* *Monologues*. *Monologues* with *Alan Bennett*. Royal Court, 115 Upper St, N1 0171-259 1010. Tue-Sat, 8pm. Mat, Sat and Sun, 3.30pm.

HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN *Quilt* (15). Fuzzy, well-told drama about a woman's life. *Quilt* (15). Fuzzy, well-told drama about a woman's life. *Quilt* (15). Fuzzy, well-told drama about a woman's life.

THE JOURN (18). Few genuine truths as *Alan Bennett's* *Monologues*. *Monologues* with *Alan Bennett*. Royal Court, 115 Upper St, N1 0171-259 1010. Tue-Sat, 8pm. Mat, Sat and Sun, 3.30pm.

LAST OF THE DOGMEN (PG). Nave drama with Tom Berenger and

PARIS WAS A WOMAN Engaging documentary about women in Paris's cultural life between the wars. Director, Greta Schiller. ICA Cinema (0171-330 3647).

TWO DEATHS (18). Nicolas Roeg's expressive chamber piece about the destructiveness of human passion. *Two Deaths* (18). Nicolas Roeg's expressive chamber piece about the destructiveness of human passion.

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Pogoing room only

When they burst on to the scene in the early 1990s with their anarchic brand of cheeky, quirky, indie pop, the Sultans Of Ping FC were, along with fellow Corkonians the Frank and Walters, trumpeted as a refreshingly humorous pop oddity — and derided as a disposable novelty act. But the goalposts of that particular debate have not so much been moved as systematically dismantled. The Sultans — their moniker now tellingly abbreviated — have abandoned wackiness for the primal throb of sleazoid rock'n'roll.

Of course, the Sultans' rebirth as the bastard son of the Ramones may have something to do with their recent

POP

Sultans Mean Fiddler, Dublin

support slot on the European leg of the legendary American rockers' seemingly endless farewell tour. And it is clear that lead singer Niall O'Flaherty has also learnt a trick or two from Mick Jagger and especially Iggy Pop as, with his tight trousers, leather boots and bare chest, he hams up the role of the vulgar sex god for all it's worth.

But for O'Flaherty's sultry post and

POP

furtive hip gyrations to mesmerise truly, there has to be an audience there for him to feed off — and the attendance in the Mean Fiddler was

embarrassingly small, with the gig at times seeming like nothing more than a rehearsal for the Sultans' upcoming British tour.

This is a shame, because the Sultans' new, improved, non-nonsense power punk approach really does pack a

punch, with the combined guitars of Pat O'Connell and recent addition Sammy Steiger unashamedly thrashing out one classic riff after another, providing the perfect complement to O'Flaherty's mangled vocals and exhilaratingly dumb lyrics, with *Frezy, Rubber Man* and the current single *Mescaline* the standouts of a set mainly culled from the imminent album, *Good Year For Trouble*.

The Sultans have transformed themselves from an idiosyncratic fuzz-pop outfit into hard-hitting punk acolytes. Trouble is, their fans do not appear to have made the same leap.

NICK KELLY

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WELCOME TO A WORLD OF FREE TRAVEL

Just writing to say a big thank you for all the work you have given me over the last two months. I'm now enjoying a holiday in the sun and can hardly believe that working in such lovely temp jobs also enabled me to collect AIR MILES awards so that my flight out here was absolutely FREE! I particularly enjoyed using my Windows and spreadsheet packages, so please keep me in mind for a booking starting next week. Time now for a swim and then another layer of suntan lotion...

See you soon

Love Sarah XXX

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Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

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Val Wade Recruitment
10 Golden Square
London W1R 3AF

RECEPTION SELECTION

A MATURE Receptionist is needed for City firm based close to the City. The successful candidate will be a mature, professional, friendly, and efficient person. Previous reception experience essential. 24-34yrs. Uniform provided together with benefits package.

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CRICKET

Gooch still regrets not pressing on to surpass Sobers

Alan Lee recalls the England captain's masterly 333 in the Lord's Test of 1990

GRAHAM GOOCH will be at Lord's this morning and, old habits dying hard, he says that he hopes to have a net before the Test starts tomorrow. In part, this is mere routine for a man of almost 43, now an England selector but still obsessed by playing the game. Yet it is also, Gooch would admit, a spot of nostalgia.

Gooch, of course, is not playing for England tomorrow, though, with Nick Knight ruled unfit yesterday, there might have been no finer or more appropriate replacement. The last time that India played a Test on the ground, Gooch produced the innings that earned him full entitlement to the overused epithet, "great".

He made 333, the highest first-class score at Lord's and, for good measure, added 123 in the second innings. "Not bad, I suppose," he mumbled lugubriously afterwards.

In the art of appearing mournful, Gooch had few peers and, even in his defining moment, with a stream of records fallen to him, he was a picture of studied gloom. There was an element here, of playing up to an image that he had begun to enjoy, but it was also indicative of a man who worried less about his own figures than the results. England had won the game and even his monumental performance diminished by instant comparison.

It is only now, retired from the international stage, that he fully appreciates what he achieved, and what he did not, on those balmy June days in 1990. "It certainly wasn't until some time afterwards that it sank in — both the rarity of a triple hundred and the fact that I should have broken the Test record," he said.

At the time, pre-Lara, that stood at 365 in the name of Garry Sobers. This, and four other scores, remained between Gooch and immortality when he was bowled by Manoj Prabhakar, driving in a fashion that the rest of us 'fashioned' as weary, while Gooch, self-critical to the end, condemned as "lazy and airy".

"Micky Stewart, my manager, had been telling me that I should bat on for the record,

take as long as I needed," Gooch said. "That was not my style and I didn't have it in my mind. Looking back now, though, I should have tried to do it. Not too many get that chance in a career."

Inevitably, for he is a meticulous man, Gooch has a sharp recall of those days, from his pleasurable surprise when Mohammed Azharuddin won the toss and asked him to bat first, through his one reprieve, a wicketkeeping miss on 36. He remembers where he sat in the dressing-room, where he dozed off over dinner on the first evening, and he remembers that BBC television shamefully missed his ascent

Gooch was in the finest form of his life. Two days before the Test, he had made a match-winning 170 against Lancashire. He arrived at Lord's in one of those moods that come rarely, one of impregnability; and, because it was Lord's, this was particularly special.

"My favourite ground, my favourite day of the year," he said. "The first day of any Lord's Test is the best that cricket can offer. No other ground can match its atmosphere and some don't come close. I still remember us turning up for the opening day of a Test in Christchurch two years later and finding the ground still. We had to leap over the gates and get the groundsman to open the place."

"At Lord's, especially on the Thursday, there is a buzz from early morning. Essex have no game this week, so I am looking forward to being there, although I know that I shall have a pang or two and miss the sensation of walking out to bat."

There is a case for saying that he should still be doing so and at least once, since he drew a line under his Test career early last year. After that, he has been tempted to ask him, "Ability-wise, I could still do myself justice," Gooch said. "The mental drain of it would worry me, though. I need a challenge nowadays. Last week, for instance, I turned up at Chelmsford looking forward to batting against Curtly Ambrose. People won't believe it, but I was disappointed when he didn't play."

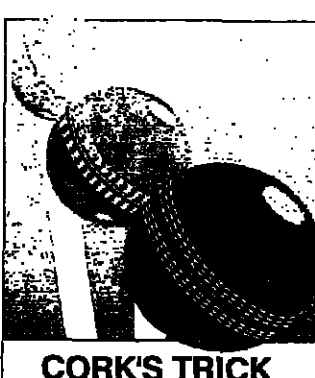
Gooch may make this his final season, though the decision rests on viable alternatives. He would like to stay with Essex — "but I know there is no job for me" — and, although he relishes his selectorial duties and his considerable part in the development of Nasser Hussain and Ronnie Irani, he remains best qualified to score runs. His evocative presence at Lord's this week will remind us of that.

'Looking back, I should have tried to do it. Not too many get the chance'



Gooch: has total recall of monumental innings

Hooper fated to provide my finest hour



CORK'S TRICK

This week, Dominic Cork celebrates a year in Test cricket. Not since the arrival of Ian Botham has a player made such an immediate impact for England. On his Test debut, at Lord's, he took a match-winning seven wickets and the week before last, at Edgbaston, he passed 50 wickets in just 11 matches. Of all his explosive feats so far, one stands out — that day at Old Trafford last summer when he became the first England player to take a hat-trick in a Test match for 38 years. It is Sunday, July 30, 1995, the fourth day of the fourth Test against West Indies and England, helped by a maiden Test fifty by Cork, are on top. Cork is bowling the first over of the day and with his fourth ball he dismisses Richie Richardson. Then, next ball, Junior Murray, the wicketkeeper, is leg before. At 161 for five in their second innings, Carl Hooper comes to the wicket to face the hat-trick ball.

I was on a hat-trick — in only my third Test. It wasn't going to be easy. Normally, you'd expect one of the lesser West Indian batsmen to follow Junior Murray, who I had just trapped leg-before. No such luck.

It was the injured Carl Hooper, one of the classicists in the West Indies batting line-up. His broken finger meant he had been pushed down the order, but his entry could be delayed no longer if he was to have any influence on the outcome of this Test. As he made his way to the wicket, though, I realised that perhaps fate was on my side after all. I already had one first-class hat-trick to my name — for Derbyshire against Kent in 1994. Guess who was victim No 3 on that occasion? Carl Hooper!

Although Hooper is a quality batsman, he does have a tendency to walk across his stumps early on. Others came over and we had a chat. He put a man in at short extra cover. I asked him: "Do you want me to bounce him or do the same as Murray?" Because we both felt that Hooper doesn't get out of the blocks early on, we decided on the latter course of action. As I walked back, I kept saying to myself: "Come on, Carl. It is in the right place...". He bowled hat-trick balls before. Two that final delivery has been a half-volley down the leg side — a complete waste, which doesn't even give you a chance of taking a wicket. This time I was going to make sure that Hooper had to play the ball — and play it under extreme pressure.



Something to shout about: Cork roars out an appeal for the wicket of Hooper that completed his hat-trick

The hat-trick ball was the least of his worries. He was the last recognised batsman they had to support. Lara, who was watching all this unfold from the non-striker's end.

It soon became clear that the last thing Hooper wanted to do was play the ball. I did manage to bowl a similar delivery and the ball reverse swung again. Hooper looked as if he was trying to leave it. Then it was too late to do anything when he saw the ball coming in at him.

He was plumb. I knew he was out, but this time I wasn't so sure the umpire would give it. Two leg-before in two balls? It doesn't happen, does it? (Cyril Mitchell) was going to give this one much more thought. I could feel my body shaking. I'm not ashamed to admit I was close to tears. I threw my hands in the air and for a split second I didn't know what to do. Should I run round the pitch on a lap of honour? Or leap in the air? Instead, I just sank to my knees,

basically because they had turned to jelly. Judgey (Robin Smith) came over and lifted me up. Others were there. All the boys were round me.

A hat-trick in Test cricket? I was staggered, not because it was the first time for so many years: I didn't have a clue about when the last one was at the time. I just knew they are extremely rare. Later, I learnt that mine was the 21st, and the first by an England bowler since Peter Loader at Headingley in 1957.

My reaction was totally different to the dismissals of Richie [Richardson] and Junior. I didn't think Cyril was going to raise his finger. When he did, I was gone, absolutely gone. I was drained, completely empty. I could feel my body shaking. I'm not ashamed to admit I was close to tears.

I was fortunate it was the end of the over because I didn't have another delivery in me. As I wandered down to the other end, Lara congratulated me.

I was really struggling to hold back the tears as I went to backward point.

I could see Jane [my wife] just to the right of the pavilion. Because there weren't that many people there, I had looked up after getting Richie out and she clapped. She did the same when I looked up after Junior had gone. This time I was just shaking my head when I looked her way. I was thinking: "I can't have just done that. Come on. Wake up. Get out of your dream."

The West Indies were eventually bowled out for 314, with Lara hitting 145. Needing 94 to win, England struggled before a six-wicket victory levelled the series again. Dominic Cork was named man of the match for the second time in three Tests.

Adapted from *Unhooked! Diary of a Cricket Year by Dominic Cork with David Norrie* (published this week by Richard Cohen Books, £15.99).

IN BRIEF

Costa falls to rapid Rusdski

GREG RUSSKI took 55 minutes to defeat Alberto Costa, of Spain, the No 2 seed, and became Great Britain's latest giant-killer at the Nottingham Open tennis tournament yesterday.

The victory put Rusdski into the second round along with Tim Henman, the national champion, who, on Monday, put out Mal Washington, the No 3 seed, from the United States. Rusdski's next opponent will be Martin Damm, from the Czech Republic.

CRICKET: England women lost by 25 runs in the final one-day match against New Zealand at Chester-le-Street yesterday, despite a bold attempt to chase a 50-over target of 237 for seven. The win gives New Zealand a 3-0 series victory, but their improved performance, assisted by a fine 66 from Barbara Daniels, raised England's hopes for the Test series which begins at Scarborough next week.

CYCLING: Candido Barbosa, from Portugal, a first-year professional, yesterday won the 100-mile European road race championship at Douglas, Isle of Man, by two lengths in a sprint finish from Daniele Contrini, of Italy. Serguei Ivanov, of Russia, finished third, three seconds slower than Barbosa's time of 4hr 10min 07sec.

ROWING: The Amateur Rowing Association Council yesterday agreed to appoint three regional development coaches on one-year contracts, to cover the North West, North and South East.

DIVING: Leon Taylor, 18, of Cheltenham, has been selected as a member of the Great Britain diving squad for the Olympic Games, joining Tony Ali, Robert Morgan, Hayley Allen and Lesley Ward.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ATLANTA: United States Olympic trials. Men: 10,000m: 1. W. Miller (GB) 28m 46.56sec; 2. J. Lacey 28m 56.88sec; 3. D. McKendree 29m 13.81sec; 4. J. W. Miller 29m 13.81sec; 5. J. W. Miller 29m 13.81sec; 6. J. W. Miller 29m 13.81sec; 7. J. W. Miller 29m 13.81sec; 8. J. W. Miller 29m 13.81sec; 9. J. W. Miller 29m 13.81sec; 10. J. W. Miller 29m 13.81sec.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 4, Detroit 3. National League: New York 3, Milwaukee 2. St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 2. Pittsburgh 3, Philadelphia 2. San Francisco 3, Los Angeles 2. Houston 3, Texas 2. Colorado 3, Chicago 2. Los Angeles 3, San Diego 2.

CRICKET

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Third women's one-day international. New Zealand 227, England 117. England won by 110 runs.

CRICKET

SECOND ODI CHAMPIONSHIP: First day of second ODI. England 236, New Zealand 53. England won by 183 runs.

CRICKET

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RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: 31 Scotland 35. Bay of Plenty: Tries: Edwards, McMillan, Spillane, Tait, Conboy. Points: 10. 3 Scotland: Tries: Nicol 2, Stark 2. Points: 10.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Recently the refresher columns have examined the advice "second player play low". There are exceptions; this example cropped up at the Jane Friday Trophy, the mixed pairs event at the Guardian Easter tournament.

Dealer South North-South game Match-pointed pairs

♠ KQ2 ♠ 104 ♠ 1043 ♠ AQ2 ♠ Q853
♥ K1097 ♥ 1043 ♥ AQ2 ♥ Q853
♦ A1074 ♦ A1074 ♦ A1074 ♦ A1074

Contract: Two Spades doubled, by South. Lead: Ten of diamonds

South's Two Spades opening was a Weak Two. I think that West did well to pass East's take-out double. If his side could make only a part-score, then trying for 200 seemed right, and, if his side could make a game, he had good prospects of getting Two Spades two off. The resulting 500 would be better than the non-vulnerable game score.

The ten of diamonds held the first trick, and West continued with a diamond to the ace. East correctly switched to a low trump, which ran to West's queen. West played a third diamond and, after South ruffed, there was an intermezzo when she played ace and another heart. West won and continued diamonds,

and now declarer got back to the main point of the hand. She led a club: West correctly played low so the king scored, and then declarer led a second club from dummy.

When East played low on the club, West had to win the nine with the ten. Now the only way that West could prevent declarer ruffing her losing club in dummy was to sacrifice his trump trick. Of course, East should have risen with the queen of clubs on the second club. Then she can play her second trump through, and hold declarer to six tricks for 500.

Robert Sheehan writes on Bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MEROPS' SON

a. The robin
b. A visionary
c. Pericles

STANG

a. Envy
b. Brewers' scum
c. A punishment pole

HARO

a. Help!
b. A Harrovian cricket cry
c. The sow-bean

JEDDART JUSTICE

a. The Border Sheriff
b. Bad luck
c. Hang first, try later

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New ratings. Fide, the World Chess Federation, has issued its mid-year ranking list. The leading positions are: Garry Kasparov 2,765; Anatoly Karpov 2,775; Vladimir Kramnik 2,765; Veselin Topalov 2,750; Gata Kamsky 2,745; Viswanathan Anand 2,735; Vassily Ivanchuk 2,730; Nigel Short 2,695; Michael Adams 2,685; Alexei Shirov 2,685.

Notable features are the first and second slots occupied by Kasparov and Karpov and the fact that there are now two British grandmasters in the world's top ten. Nigel Short's new rating is a personal best.

Player of the year

Grandmaster Michael Adams has one more thing to celebrate. He has been nominated player of the year by the British Chess Federation ahead of 12-year-old Luke McShane in second position and Nigel Short third.

British success

Matthew Sadler, the British champion, has scored a fine result in the Ischia international tournament in Italy. Scores (out of 9) were: Sadler, Khalifman, Fianelli, 6; Goshwin, 4; Romanishin, 3; Teitlin, Khentia, 4; Hodgson, Smirnov, Godena, 3.

White: Sadler

Black: Teitlin

Ischia, June 1996

Grandfed Defence

1. d4 Nf6
2. c4 g6
3. Nc3 Ng6
4. e4 Nf6
5. d5 Nc3
6. bxc3 Bg7
7. Nf3 c5
8. Nb1 O-O
9. Be2 Qe8
10. O-O Qe7

Diagram of final position

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available from bookshops or from BT Bookshop Ltd (tel: 01376 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Karpov — Nunn, Monaco, 1995. White could capture the black rook on e8, but he found something much better. What did he play?

Solution on page 50

EURO 96

DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

GROUP A



ENGLAND

The English press football team completed an unenviable sequence yesterday but it was one that may nevertheless have encouraged the national team before their match against the Dutch last night. Playing a few hundred yards from Wembley stadium, the Dutch crushed their English counterparts 7-2 yesterday morning, despite the presence in the English attack of Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive. Johan Cruyff was rumoured to be playing but did not turn up and the only Dutch celebrity present was the father of the midfielder, Clarence Seedorf, who gave the English journalists the consolation of a few titbits about the quarrels that are splitting the Dutch camp.

CAUTIONS: Adams, G Neville, Ince, Shearer

GROUP B



SPAIN

Andoni Zubizarreta, the Spain captain, could be called Captain Scarlet, given his reputation as the squad's Mr Angry. It is appropriate, too, because he is indestructible. He holds the appearance record for his country and, in 17 seasons, suffered his first injury only this year. It happened in January, when he pulled a thigh muscle, which ended a sequence of 534 Spanish league games. His anger has mounted all week about the "ignominious" Spanish press, and he has finally won his one-man crusade to prevent them from staying in the same hotel as the team in future.

CAUTIONS: Camarero, Sergi, Amor, Abalo, Luis Enrique, Amavaca, Otero, Kiko, Nadal

GROUP C



GERMANY

Germany held their biggest press conference yet yesterday, with a horde of Italian journalists swelling the numbers. One arrived in a Bentley with the number plate WEN2L (underneath and back). It was not that bad, but Germany were revealing nothing, although Jürgen Klinsmann was full of diplomacy as always. "I would recommend anybody to spend a few years in Italy," Klinsmann said. "It will develop you as a player and your personality." A German reporter who tried to get him to reveal his preferred striking partner was no more successful. "I am glad I am not in Bernd Vogts's boots, because he has four strikers to choose from."

CAUTIONS: Babbel (2), Reuter, Häsel, Möller, Kuntz, Ziege, Bierhoff

GROUP D



DENMARK

The surprise of the tournament: Denmark have injury worries before their game against Turkey today. Having been blessed with a fit squad thus far, perhaps this is just the setback that they need to wallop Turkey and clinch unlikely qualification for the quarter-finals. Mikkel Beck has a muscular problem and Jacob Laursen an Achilles tendon injury. One other peculiarity. The Danish players are promising neat, one-touch, attacking football. After their 3-0 defeat by Croatia, this could be Denmark's last waltz — and the last match in charge for Richard Møller Nielsen, their coach. Søren Andersen is expected to join Brian Laudrup in attack, with Michael Laudrup dropping deeper.

CAUTIONS: Risager, Helveg



SWITZERLAND

All can be revealed. It was the Swiss media who broke the Edgar Davids Affair, which is still threatening the increasingly fragile harmony of the Holland camp. Davids, rather naively, thought that, by airing his grievances to the foreign press, it might not receive such widespread coverage. Wrong. The next morning, his views were in every Dutch organ from Amsterdam to Amstelveen. "Edgar was foolish but it made a good yarn," one Swiss journalist said. Fortunately, said scribe was not present when Davids beat a hasty and undignified exit from the Dutch HQ in Hertfordshire, with the assembled media having to take swift and evasive action.

CAUTIONS: Grassi (2), Vogel, Ouentin, Vega, Jeanneret, Chapuisat, Turkyilmaz



BULGARIA

What is it about England? So far the Premiership, apparently admired by all the best players across the Continent, has failed to attract any of the stars of Euro 96. The latest to turn his back on us is Jordan Lechikov, that bald-headed beacon of midfield industry. The Hamburg player has been wooed by several English clubs, and even said last week that he wanted to come here. When it came to the crunch, however, he chose France, saying: "I will sign for Olympique de Marseille in the next few days unless there are any last-minute complications." Marseille are also chasing Hagli, the Romanian.

CAUTIONS: Klichichev (2), Tzatanov (2), Stoichkov, Ivanov, Kremenskiy, Dimitchev



CZECH REPUBLIC

What better way to prepare for the crunch game against Russia at Anfield tonight than a visit to the Golden Mile at Blackpool? A ride or two on the big dipper ought to put the speed of Andrei Kanchelskis into perspective. The mood in the squad is fairly relaxed, with Lubos Kubik of Nuremberg, the most upbeat, having been called into the side to replace Miroslav Kadlec, the sweeper, who is suspended. Otherwise the Czechs will line up as they did for their unexpected 2-1 win over Italy. The Czechs intend to hold a press conference at midnight tonight — if they have reached the quarter-finals. If they fail, they will face the world at the more sober hour of 10am tomorrow.

CAUTIONS: Kadlec, Drusk, Bejbl, Nedved



PORTUGAL

The Portuguese continue to harp on about the refereeing, both about the yellow cards and some of the decisions not given against other teams. Yesterday Antonio Oliveira complained about free kicks his side did get. "Against Turkey we had good opportunities denied us by the referee calling play back to give us free kicks," he said. The relationship between the captain and press is tense. Vitor Bala refuses to talk to the Portuguese press, saying that all they ask him about is his impending move to Barcelona. "You are showing a lack of respect for the Portuguese people," one journalist said. Bala remained impassive.

CAUTIONS: Paulinho Santos (2), Oceano, Sa Pinto, João Pinto, Paulo Sousa, Figo, Tavarres



HOLLAND

Fear of flying affects many footballers — Ian Rush, the former Liverpool striker, is honorary president of the White-Knuckle Club. Holland have their WKC members, too, with Dennis Bergkamp, the Arsenal striker, and John Veldman, the Sparta Rotterdam defender, preferring to travel via Eurotunnel on their way to Euro 96. Bergkamp's worries arise from a long-ago prank that backfired at 37,000 feet but the anxieties of Veldman, who is soon to join Ajax to replace Michael Reiziger, his Dutch team-mate, are born from tragedy. Seven years ago, his brother, Elried, was among a party of players killed in a plane crash at Zaandam airport in Surinam.

CAUTIONS: Witschge, Taarment, Seedorf



ROMANIA

Romania are on their way to Bucharest today but Gheorgi Hagli at least had the consolation of returning home clutching his 100th full international cap, collected against Spain at Eland Road yesterday. Reaching this deserved milestone could mark a watershed in the Barcelona's midfielder's magnificent if moody career. His contract at the Nou Camp expires this month and Hagli is determined to turn his back on Bobby Robson's overtures and prepare his passport for a stint in the United States, Japan or, just possibly, England. Hagli has reportedly said that he would not be averse to moving to Darlington. Jim Platt, manager of the third division club, would surely not reject him.

CAUTIONS: Ila (2), Mihai, Selymes, Popescu, Hagli, Ila, Gica



ITALY

Just for a change, there are no shocks in the Italy line-up selected to face Germany tonight with Arrigo Sacchi pacing his faith in the ten players who finished their second match, against the Czech Republic, with Di Matteo reinstated as the eleventh man. "I'm not worried," Sacchi said. "I'm trying to smile now because I don't know if I'll be able to smile tomorrow." The big debate in the Italy camp has been over why the team have played better in the second half in both of their games to date. If they can crack that one, they could progress. It is Sacchi's fifth match in charge — will it also be his last?

CAUTIONS: Albertini, Donadoni, Fuser, Dismissal: Apolloni



TURKEY

Italy's supporters and press pack could employ a lynch mob for Arrigo Sacchi, the coach, if things go wrong against Germany today. The Spanish cognoscenti are not too impressed with their team or results, either. Yet Turkey have received little but praise for their efforts, despite a campaign that could end with no goals and nul points. "Being here is our achievement," Eray Korkmaz, one of more than a thousand Turkish followers from Germany, said. "We are proud of our team, we love the way they have played. There is no atmosphere like that of Turkish football." Eray's idols bid farewell against Denmark at Hillsborough today.

CAUTIONS: Tolunay (2), Abdullah, Vedat, Rahim



SCOTLAND

Even the implausible demands a certain amount of administration. Scotland approached the match with Switzerland yesterday, knowing that they were almost certainly out of the competition, but still booked a new hotel for one further night as a precaution against miracles. The players had requested a move to a more central location. The tranquility of their present base, in a rural setting near Stratford-upon-Avon, must be making them twitchy. There was certainly a culture shock when a training session, on NFU Mutual's leisure facilities, was thrown open to 1,000 staff and children. Not one of the 22 footballers went "missing". It was never like this in Glasgow.

CAUTIONS: Boyd, Gallacher, Collins, Spencer, Hendry



FRANCE

Christian Karembeu may look like an independent soul, and he acts like one too, using his position to offer support for worthy causes such as AIDS charities and the campaign against nuclear testing, but there is one thing the deep-thinking, free spirit still needs... his rum. The midfielder player has to ring her before every big match. There is a problem, though. Before the game against Bulgaria, he rang home as usual, but on the New Caledonia island where she lives, it was 3am. Bleary-eyed, she still managed to conjure up some mother comfort — and no doubt confirmed that Christian's favourite teddy bear was all right.

CAUTIONS: Di Meo, Blanc, Karembeu, Djorkaeff, Desailly, Kourany



RUSSIA

Russia held a press conference yesterday and, this time, everybody came. "The drawbridge is down," a security guard said with a smile. No smiles inside though. "We come to what is likely to be our farewell press conference," the team press officer said, and that set the tone. After the news blackout of the previous weeks, however, yesterday's meeting was sensational. Sergei Kirakov was sent home yesterday morning. "We have tried to improve the fighting spirit of the team, but Kirakov was not only not a contributor, he was the one who undermined team morale," Oleg Romanov, the coach, said.

CAUTIONS: Onopko (2), Kolyanov, Kanchelskis, Dismissal: Kovtun



CROATIA

Croatia's emergence as a force to be respected in Euro 96 has delighted Dr Franjo Tudjman, the Croatia president. The good doctor is a close friend of Miroslav Blazevic, the team coach, and they share a keen rivalry on the tennis courts and card tables. Tudjman's fax from Zagreb was among the first of many congratulatory messages that the squad received after their impressive 3-0 win over Denmark at Hillsborough on Sunday, and he has been invited to attend the closing stages of the tournament, should Croatia reach the semi-finals. "He knows all of the players," a team spokesman said. "If we get to the last four and he comes over, it would be a great extra incentive for us."

CAUTIONS: Asanovic, Boban, Soldo, Stanic, Prosinecki, Vucovic

REPORTS: Oliver Holt, Kevin McCarr, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Alyson Rudd, David Maddock and Louise Taylor

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

GROUP A

England 1 Switzerland 1
Shearer (23) Turkyilmaz (83 pen)
(Wembley, attendance 76,567)
Holland 0 Scotland 0
(Villa Park, attendance 34,363)
Switzerland 0 Holland 2
Cruyff (65) Bergkamp (78)
(Villa Park, attendance 36,800)
England 2 Scotland 0
Shearer (53) Gascoigne (79)
(Wembley, attendance 76,864)
Scotland 1 Switzerland 0
McCoist (37)
(Villa Park, attendance 39,000)
England 4 Holland 1
Shearer (23 pen, 57) Sheringham (51, 62)
Kluivert (78) (Wembley, attendance 76,798)

GROUP B

Spain 1 Bulgaria 1
Alfonso (73) Stoichkov (65 pen)
(Eland Road, attendance 26,006)
Romania 0 France 1
Dugany (24)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,323)
Bulgaria 1 Romania 0
Stoichkov (3)
(St James' Park, attendance 19,107)
France 1 Spain 1
Djorkaeff (48) Camarero (85)
(Eland Road, attendance 35,626)
France 3 Bulgaria 1
Blanc (20) Penav (63og) Loko (90) Stoichkov (89)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,976)
Romania 1 Spain 2
Radiculoiu (29) Manjarin (11) Amore (83)
(Eland Road, attendance 32,719)

GROUP C

Germany 2 Czech Republic 0
Ziege (25) Möller (31)
(Old Trafford, attendance 37,300)
Italy 2 Russia 1
Casiraghi (5, 52) Tsymbalars (20)
(Anfield, attendance 35,120)
Czech Republic 2 Italy 1
Nedved (4) Bejbl (35) Chiesa (18)
(Anfield, attendance 37,320)
Russia 0 Germany 3
Sammer (56) Klinsmann (77, 90)
(Old Trafford, attendance 50,760)
Today
Italy v Germany
(Old Trafford, 7.30) BBC1
Russia v Czech Republic
(Anfield, 7.30)

GROUP D

Denmark 1 Portugal 1
B Laudrup (21) Sa Pinto (52)
(Hillsborough, attendance 34,993)
Turkey 0 Croatia 1
Vucovic (85)
(City Ground, attendance 22,460)
Portugal 1 Turkey 0
Couto (86)
(City Ground, attendance 22,670)
Croatia 3 Denmark 0
Suker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81)
(Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)
Today
Croatia v Portugal
(City Ground, 4.30) ITV
Turkey v Denmark
(Hillsborough, 4.30)

England
3 2 1 0 7 2 7

Holland
3 1 1 1 3 4 4

Scotland
3 1 1 1 2 4

Switzerland
3 0 1 2 1 4 1

France
3 2 1 0 5 2 7

Spain
3 1 2 0 4 3 5

Bulgaria
3 1 1 1 3 4 4

Romania
3 0 0 3 1 5 0

Germany
2 2 0 0 5 0 6

Italy
2 1 0 1 3 3 3

Czech Rep
2 1 0 1 2 3 3

Russia
2 0 0 2 1 5 0

Croatia
2 2 0 0 4 0 6

Portugal
2 1 0 2 1 4 4

Denmark
2 0 1 1 4 1 1

Turkey
2 0 0 2 0 2 0

Qualification of teams that finish level on points at the end of the group stage will be determined first by results between the respective teams, then by goal difference, then goals scored, then by a UEFA coefficient of qualifying performances for the 1994 World Cup and the European championship of 1992 and 1996, then by disciplinary records and, as a last resort, by drawing lots

QUARTER-FINALS

Sat June 22 France v Holland (Anfield, 6.30)
Sun June 23 Winners Group C v Runners-up Group D (Old Trafford, 3.0)
Sun June 23 Runners-up Group C v Winners Group D (Villa Park, 6.30)

SEMI-FINALS

Wed June 26 Villa Park winners v Anfield winners (Old Trafford, 4.0)
Wed June 26 Wembley winners v Old Trafford winners (Wembley, 7.30)

FINAL

Sun June 30 Wembley (7.0) BBC1 and ITV

PREVIOUS WINNERS
1960 USSR
1964 Spain
1968 Italy
1972 West Germany
1976 Czechoslovakia
1980 West Germany
1984 France
1988 Holland
1992 Denmark

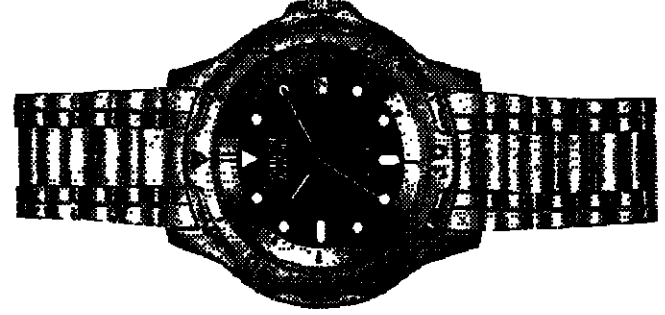
HUNDREDS-UP
1960 Yugoslavia
1964 USSR
1968 Yugoslavia
1972 USSR
1976 West Germany
1984 Spain
1988 USSR
1992 Germany

LATEST BETTING
5-2: Germany
7-2: England
9-2: France
6-1: Italy
7-1: Holland

8-1: Croatia
10-1: Spain
14-1: Portugal
40-1: Czech Republic
250-1: Denmark
500-1: Russia

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Cautions Dismissals



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FOOTBALL: BULGARIAN ACCUSED OF RACIST TAUNTS AS EAST EUROPEAN CHALLENGERS ARE ELIMINATED FROM GROUP B

Impressive France settle old score

Bulgaria 1
France 3

By DAVID MADDOCK

FRANCE progressed smoothly into the quarter-finals of the European championship with an ultimately comfortable victory over Bulgaria at St James' Park, Newcastle, yesterday. In doing so, they propelled their opponents out of the competition, and perhaps towards oblivion.

The Bulgarians had always considered this the last tournament for an ageing side. Now they have the necessary evidence that rebuilding must be undertaken before World Cup qualifying begins.

The bitter rivalry between the sides was evident from the post-match comments. Desailly, France's marvellous

centre back, said: "I take nothing from my battle with Stoichkov. I did not appreciate racist comments he made to me and the other Africans in the French team. I no longer consider him a great player. What he said demeans him."



Stoichkov replied: "I don't care what Desailly said. It is normal racial abuse, it happens all over the pitch. What is said on the pitch is ignored when you walk off it."

France controlled the match after shaking off a nervous lethargy in the opening minutes. They have a midfield and forward line so fluid that it could drown any team in the tournament.

For Bulgaria, Stoichkov was again outstanding, but even his incredible range of talents could not plug the gap where their hopes drained through ... at the heart of the defence. Bulgaria are out of the compe-

tion because Spain secured a second, winning goal, and because they cannot defend corners or free kicks. Laurent Blanc proved their nemesis. He scored one goal from a corner and created so much panic that Bulgaria conceded an own goal in a match which was not for the faint-hearted. Adding a very real edge to the contest were memories of November 1993, when a Bulgaria goal in the final seconds condemned France to a defeat that cost a place in the World Cup finals and a period of painful introspection.

Remarkably, Bulgaria fielded ten of the 11 who started that match, which was enough to raise the blood pressure by a degree or two. Thankfully the two English referees kept a sensible grip. There were two because Paul Durkin replaced Dermot Gallagher after the latter retired before half-time with a leg injury.

The ugliest of confrontations came, predictably, between Stoichkov and Desailly, who was hooked early on for hauling Stoichkov down on the edge of the box. It could have been a red card and it should have been for the Bulgarian who, in the opening minutes, demonstrated the full range of his colourful character. First he was begging the referee to send off Desailly; then he stamped on Lama before an audacious free kick produced a fine save from the abused goalkeeper.

Stoichkov got a similar opportunity from a similar distance after 67 minutes and this time the ball curved in a perfect arc to the top right corner of the net. He made it look so simple. It was beautiful ... but, by then, Bulgaria were two down.

France, after being hard pressed in the opening 20 minutes, took a deep breath, thanked their lucky stars, and gratefully took the lead. It was a simple goal, too. Djorkaeff delivering a floating corner to the head of the unmarked Blanc, who converted with ease.

France were allowed dominance in midfield by the strange decision of Dimitar Penev, the Bulgaria coach, to



Kremlev, of Bulgaria, becomes airborne in his pursuit of Lizarazu during the match at Newcastle yesterday

switch the influential Balakov to the left from his favoured central position. Mykhailov, the goalkeeper who was breaking his country's appearance record with his 97th cap, denied Dugarry with a quite outrageous save after the forward had chipped intelligently and later saved from Djorkaeff and Zidane, but he

could do nothing in the 62nd minute when his defence was again undone by a cross from Djorkaeff. This time it was missed by Blanc, but the ball skimmed into the net off the head of the unfortunate Penev. Stoichkov's response reopened prospects of the 2-2 draw that would have seen both teams through, but may-

be a third game in a week was just too much for ageing legs. As if to rub it in, France secured another goal on the final whistle. Loko rounding Mihailov after being put through by Karembeu.

FRANCE (4-2-2): R. Lizarazu (Paris Saint-Germain), C. Dugarry (Bordeaux), sub: P. Loko, Paris Saint-Germain, 67. BULGARIA (4-4-2): B. Mykhailov (Reading), E. Kremenlev (Olympique), T. Nenov (Rapid Vienna), P. Hristov (SV Hildesheim), T. Tsvetanov (Widder Muenchen), L. Kostov (SV Hildesheim), I. Nedelkov (Sporting Lisbon), Z. Markov (Wendling), sub: D. Balakov, Munich 1860, 77. K. Balakov (VfB Stuttgart), sub: G. Donkov, CSKA Sofia, 77. L. Penev (Atletico Madrid), H. Stoichkov (Paris). Referee: D. Gallagher (England, replaced by P. Durkin, England, 25min).

Spain squeeze through with a little help from referee

Romania 1
Spain 2

By PETER BALL

SPAIN are making a habit of leaving it late. On Saturday they equalised against France with five minutes to spare; yesterday there were seven minutes remaining when Amor's header earned the victory which takes them to a quarter-final at Wembley on Saturday as Group B runners-up.

By the end they just about deserved that success, after attacking with mounting conviction as the second half wore on; but they still needed a stroke of luck to claim the decisive goal.

Prodan, the aggressive Romania defender, was lying injured in the penalty area, playing Sergi outside to make a telling cross. Once he had done so, the Romania defence was split as the two substitutes combined, Alfonso rising to head the ball back and Amor bending to leave Prunea helpless.

Anghel Iordanescu, the Romania coach, has already had his say about refereeing in this tournament, and that will add further to his complaints. Another referee might easily have blown for play to stop before Sergi received the ball.

However, if Iordanescu believes that his team are going home because of goalkeeping and refereeing blunders, as he has said, he is mistaken. They are going home because yesterday, as in their other group matches, they did not score goals. They missed enough chances in the opening quarter to have left Spain facing an almost impossible task if they wanted to reach Wembley.

If Spain had their moments of fortune, though, they will be a test when they get to London. Spanish defences are always hard, and this one is no exception, but the tough little Sergi, Nadal and Hierro give them fluency as well as aggression in midfield.

In the end they were too durable for Romania, yet, at the start, the World Cup quarter-finalists looked as if they would at least salvage some pride by going home with a win. Instead, they have lost all three games, and that is not just down to luck.

With the aptly named Stinga and Raducioiu beginning dangerously, they could have taken an early lead, but the poor finishing which has bedevilled them soon surfaced. Hagi released fire, but, from a good position, he blazed over the bar.

Instead, rather unhelpfully, Romania found themselves behind after ten minutes. Kiko, whose sheer physical presence caused Romania constant problems for an hour,

found Amavisca. His shot hit his colleague, Pizzi, in the back and fell nicely into the path of Manjarin, who side-footed it beyond Prunea.

That gave Spain the start that they were looking for, but Romania held on and, on the half hour, they claimed an excellent equaliser. Great skill by Stinga put in Raducioiu to run in and shoot below Zubizarreta, the ball clipping the goalkeeper's elbow on its way into the net.

From then until half-time, Romania had the better of the exchanges, even though Hagi was a muted figure.

Yet Romania failed to recapture their earlier conviction when they returned for the second half and, increasingly, Spain kept up a constant barrage of the Romania goal



Amor: late winner

as news that France were beating Bulgaria arrived to offer them hope of progress. For a time it looked as if missed chances were going to deny them.

Prunea made a fine save from Manjarin and another excellent one at close range from Amavisca, who accepted Alfonso's pass to turn past Popescu only to be denied by the goalkeeper.

Soon an even better chance arrived as Kiko put in Amor, who drew the goalkeeper and then slipped the ball across goal for Hierro, but Petrescu spread himself to block the drive with his body.

Finally, as time was running out, the goal came that sent Spain through.

"Our participation has been a failure," Iordanescu said, "but we won't turn it into a tragedy. We will start afresh to build for the World Cup."

ROMANIA (1-2-5-2): F. Prunea (Dinamo Bucharest), A. Dobos (Steaua Bucharest), D. Prodan (Steaua Bucharest), sub: I. Lupescu, Bayer Leverkusen, 88min. C. Gheorghi (Steaua Bucharest), D. Petrescu (Chelva), O. Stinga (Steaua Bucharest), G. Popescu (Barcelona), G. Hagi (Barcelona), T. Sejanovic (Borussia Dortmund), sub: I. Vladoiu (Steaua Bucharest), 79. A. Iliu (Steaua Bucharest), sub: D. Munteanu, Clujana, 65. SPAIN (4-2-3-1): A. Zubizarreta (Real Madrid), J. M. Lopez (Atletico Madrid), F. Alcaraz (Real Madrid), F. Abalo (Barcelona), sub: G. Amor, Barcelona, 64. Sergi (Barcelona), F. Hierro (Real Madrid), M. Nadal (Barcelona), J. Manjarin (Deportivo La Coruna), J. Amavisca (Real Madrid), sub: A. Guarnido, Athletic Bilbao, 75. J. Pizzi (Teniente, sub: Alfonso (Real Betis), 57. Referee: A. Cacer (Turkey).

Tormented Stoichkov beaten by the enemy within

Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgaria forward, star, and talisman, said before this match that Bulgaria would not win the European championship because they would not be allowed, fantasising a Europe-wide conspiracy of footballing officials against small nations. Bulgaria were not, indeed, allowed to progress any further: they crashed out because of the internal tensions of the team and their troubled and troublesome striker.

There were suggestions that their match against France would be a comfortable draw that would allow both teams to go through. If there had indeed been a non-aggression pact, nobody bothered to tell the players. It was a match of

high skills and high tempers that always wobbled on the edge of brilliance, on the edge of disaster, without ever quite reaching either.

It featured a great match within a match, with the two No.8s, who homed in on each other before the second minute was up. One, inevitably, was Stoichkov, who looks more like a bank robber than what he is, the owner of a bank. The other was Desailly, who was mostly marking him. In that second minute, he was beaten by a Stoichkov charge and tripped him as he headed in on goal. In the FA Carling Premiership, that might well have been a red card. As it was, the yellow was merely a signal that battle had been joined.

Stoichkov is one of those

Simon Barnes watches the downfall of a team and star torn apart by internal strife

rare, quite mesmerising footballers. When any world-class player is truly up for a big game, the results tend to be compelling, but Stoichkov brings an added dimension to all this. He has a quality of menace, of danger, often associated with great actors. He may, at his very best, approach the Olivier class as a footballer, but as an actor he is distinctively Dr Martens League.

His persistent attempts to fool the referee were obvious enough, but every rejection fuelled Stoichkov's sense of persecution: his belief that the world is against Bulgaria, in general, and Stoichkov in particular. He got up from every fall with all the insufferable self-righteousness of a liar who believes his own lies.

Football is another matter, though. He possesses a reptilian quality, and Desailly watched him the way you do a snake in your living room. The two exchanged off-the-ball chest bumps, whirling boots, theatrical tumbles, wounded looks to officials and, on one occasion, a couple of vigorous, unpunished slaps.

Stoichkov led Bulgaria to two purple patches in the first half, two periods of majestic football. It is no good having purple patches, however, if you do not score in them, and, if you concede a humdrum goal from a corner as well, things begin to fall apart.

France had the wit to slow things down after they had gone ahead, allowing Bulgaria to get cross with life, fate, the world and each other rather than with their opponents.

Conceding a truly foolish goal, direct from a corner, hardly added to the internal harmonies. So to Stoichkov once again. Does he wake up in the morning and ponder "What shall I do today? Shall I score a goal or shall I get sent off?" His deliciously-flipped free kick would have made the

Italy pressure mounts on Sacchi

By PETER BALL

ARRIGO SACCHI is no stranger to pressure. It goes with the territory for the Italy coach, along with the compensation of a salary said to be £1 million a year.

However, if Italy lose their match with Germany this evening and go home instead of progressing to the quarter-finals, even the salary will not soften the awareness of his own responsibility. His decision to make five changes against the Czech Republic carries a lot of blame for the defeat, which leaves Italy probably needing to beat Germany to survive.

Yesterday, even Berti Vogts, the Germany coach, who is reluctant to criticise any of his colleagues, and Jürgen Klinsmann, who is a byword for diplomacy, were unable to resist a dig. When Vogts was asked if he was watching potential quarter-final opponents, he said: "We will never

deal with the next but one opponent — do that and you are on your way home."

Klinsmann was even more pointed. Maybe it was not too wise to make so many changes, particularly leaving out a player who had scored two goals, he said with reference to Casiraghi. "If that had



Klinsmann: diplomatic

happened to me, I would have had a problem accepting it," he said, "and it has caused unrest in the team."

There is, of course, no chance of Klinsmann being left on the bench today, but, his captain apart, Vogts was being his usual, cautious self, refusing to reveal his hand. No, he would not say who Klinsmann's partner would be.

That is the least of his problems; the main one coming at the back. The loss of Kohler is compounded by the absence today of Marcus Babel, his deputy, who is suspended. Steffen Freund, a defensive midfielder player by preference, is expected to be pressed into service to mark Zola, who Germany see as Italy's key creative force.

Germany are aware that an unlikely combination of results, which would bring the coefficient calculation into

play, could see them going home, though it is highly unlikely. "It would be history's joke, if that happened," Klinsmann said, "but it could happen: so it is an incentive not to be too laid back."

Vogts agreed. "Any player who needs motivating for a match against Italy should not be in the team," he said.

Italy know that, for them, there is no second chance. "This is our final," Paolo Maldini, their captain, said before comparing the pressure of this game with that he experienced in the European Cup Champions' League with AC Milan after a home defeat by Salzburg.

Milan won in Austria to go through. Italy could survive on a draw if Russia beat the Czech Republic, but they obviously cannot count on that and will have to look for a win. The question is whether they are capable of it.

Jittery Portugal have point to make

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

CROATIA are happy, exceptionally so. They have won both their matches and have already qualified for the quarter-finals of Euro 96. Portugal are unhappy, and suffering from a festering discontent bordering on paranoia. Luis Filipe Madeira Figo, the influential Barcelona midfielder, twisted his left ankle in six-a-side training; Antonio Luis Ribeiro de Oliveira, the coach, thinks that everybody is against him.

Amid such contrasting moods, Croatia and Portugal do battle at the City Ground this afternoon to resolve the outcome of Group D. A draw will be enough for both to progress into the last eight; a defeat for Portugal could allow Denmark to slip past them should they topple Turkey by a wide margin at Hillsborough.

If points were awarded for temperament, or deducted for

lack of it, the Croats would be well ahead of the Portuguese. It would be no contest. Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, has even stated that he would prefer to play Germany, the tournament favourites, in the quarter-finals, rather than possibly Italy or the Czech Republic.

Blazevic is 61, and the oldest coach in the tournament, but his grasp of reality has not waned. "I like Germany; they are such nice guys," he said. "Seriously, they play the football that would suit us the most. We are confident, for sure, but still have a deep respect for every opponent."

He will change his side from the one that brushed aside Denmark 3-0. Nikola Jerkan has not recovered from a broken nose, Alen Boksic has a throat infection, and Davor Suker, who scored two of the goals, will probably be rested for the more testing games.

Portugal's preparations have been plagued by Oliveira's odd utterings. "We have videotaped all the games so far and there is a wide difference in the criteria of the yellow cards awarded against Portugal and those given to others," he said yesterday.

His claims of victimisation have been unproven. Though they will be missing Paulinho Santos today through suspension, and six of his teammates are on one booking each, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Germany have similarly poor disciplinary records.

Oliveira, who strangely prefers to be quoted generally, not directly, is likely to bring in Secretario, of FC Porto, to replace Santos. Jorge Cadete or Jose Domingos could start up front for the first time, but, if Figo does not shake off his ankle injury, Oliveira's depression will be complete.

At Hillsborough, Turkey will, in all likelihood, be more committed than ever in an effort to appease their particularly enthusiastic supporters with at least one victory. With nothing to lose, it could turn out to be the most passionate game of the qualification round.



Figo: ankle injury

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Tales of the poisonous and the paranormal

When hypnotists treat people for arachnophobia, apparently one of the tricks is to open up the imagination of the scared person and plant there an image of a spider looking silly and harmless, in eight big gumballs and a bobble hat. A similar kindness was performed for snakes-on-phobes last night by *Wildlife on One* (BBC1), in which we learnt of the huge, deadly tiger snake which slithers through the gritty wastes of Chappell Island in Australia, flicks its tongue at the camera, and still looks a complete moron at the same time.

What a life this poor creature has. The tiger snake somehow got stuck on Chappell Island eons ago when the waters rose, and unfortunately forgot to bring a picnic. Now it roams this moon-scape on its belly for 11 months of the year moaning with increasing disbelief, "What do you have to do

to get served in this place?" and "Has anyone invented the ladder yet?" and "Where are the chicks?" Evolution has dealt the tiger snake a hand like a foot, because on Chappell Island there is literally nothing to eat. Just once a year mutton birds (shearwaters) arrive to nest in the ground and produce chicks. At which point the snakes have their one annual chance of a square meal — and even that turns out to be oblong and flappy.

As usual, *Wildlife on One* compensated for the essential terminative nature of this story by inserting lots of life-or-death drama, presumably shot in a studio. Snake slithers down hole (eck!), adult bird flutters in alarm, snake tongue flicks, bird feathers fly off, oof, peck, twirl, dart, squawk, and silence. Meanwhile, dumpy hapless chick (tutored in the usual fuzzy felt) blinks uncertainly, sensing its doom. And sure enough, snake re-emerges from hole, with

big grey fluffy thing clamped in its jaws, resembling Hoover bag turned inside out.

This moment represents triumph, don't forget. It is the highlight of the tiger snake's year. How could anyone still be afraid of snakes after watching this? Just to torture the poor chumps further, evolution has decreed that only chicks of a certain size are edible. Thus sometimes the snake burges in, kills the mummy, and finds a hugely fat fluff-ball looking right back at him, saying "What?"

Beating poisonous vermin with sarcasm may be the favoured tool of hypnotists, then. But if you want to beat a hypnotist, the sarcastic Catherine Bennett of *The Guardian* will do it for you. To put it nicely, she is not someone you would wish to meet down a dark hole. Her new late-night series on BBC2, *Strange Days*, began last night with a cool,

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

supercilious round-up of popular superstition — astrology, feng shui, and *Strange But True?* on the telly — which was pitiless about other people's credulity. Feng shui (which she pronounced with startling linguistic confidence, "fong shway") involves paying suitcases of money to an oriental shaman, who tells you how to line up your furniture. Luckily the sofa still goes in front

of the telly, and not facing the ironing board. Bennett interviewed a mild-mannered man who had placed a cactus in the window, to ward off burglars.

Is this the age of anti-reason? If so, why? Bennett interviewed Nicholas Humphrey, the author of the excellent *Soul Searching*, who endorsed her opinion that newspapers, books and television are irresponsible in reporting the paranormal as if it were harmless fun. Meanwhile, the glibly popular reaches out for the irrational. It reads its stars in the paper, searches the skies for UFOs, and buys lottery tickets on the insane grounds that "it could be me".

In the most jaw-dropping section of *Strange Days*, Bennett conducted a brilliant experiment, hanging around a post office and offering to swap her lottery ticket with other people's. They all giggled and said no. Yet the chance of her lottery ticket winning was

precisely the same as theirs — 14 million to one. "And we are all," she added, "five times more likely to be killed by lightning."

Searching for an explanation for all this retro-bunkum, Bennett explored Humphrey's contention that it's a backlash against science. When science can explain so much, people want to be able to say, "Well, you can't explain this, can you?" They want to wear X-Files beanie hats, and waggle their eyebrows, and whisper "The truth is out there". But seeing those people clutching their lottery tickets and refusing to let go, a more humane explanation suggested itself: people want desperately to feel important, that's all.

Meanwhile, *Murder One* (BBC2) reached its sixteenth episode, in which Julie Costello married Richard Cross, much to the dismay of Teddy, Justin and

Arnold. If these names still mean nothing, it's not too late: honestly, the plot looks more complicated than it is. Newcomers to *Murder One* need only appreciate that the whole cast have been taught to rasp and whisper, presumably to subvert the old Perry Mason genre of shouting in court. The words "throat" and "spray" spring to mind uninvited.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the noise scale, in *Cardiac Arrest* (BBC1) the whole hospital went bananas, with the ghostly Dr Liz (Caroline Trowbridge) succumbing to a full-blown screaming nervous breakdown, while the similarly unattractive Adrian (Jack Fortune) walked over the lifeless body of his own son, Blimley. Relationships crashed, children died, doctors went mad, cacophony reigned. Clearly a Saturn-Pluto conjunction was at work. Any rational person could have told them that.

CHOICE

Absolutely Animals

Channel 4, 8.30pm

The presenters are new, Wendy Turner (sister of Anthea) and a vet, Mark Evans, but the animal magazine starts a second series in the same troubling format. Thanks to the recent bat and rabies scare, one of the reports has become topical. In a town in Mexico vampire bats have started attacking people. The bats come out at night and survive on a diet of blood. In Latin America as a whole since 1992, 81 people have died from rabies after being bitten by the bats. But, as Turner reports, the Mexican health authorities are hating back with an unusual type of cure. Evans gets a trip to Florida, to look at how animals are exploited for the tourist trade, and an animal behaviourist is called in to advise a poodle owner back home on how to deal with her truculent pet.

Secrets of Lost Empires: The Incas

BBC2, 9.00pm

We are in the Peruvian Andes where 500 years ago the Incas were building the largest and richest empire in the pre-industrial world. How did they do it? How did they manage to get huge blocks of stone to fit together without mortar and so accurately that not even a razorblade can be inserted between them? The Incas did not have the benefit of chisels to cut the stone, or wheels to transport them. Come to that, they could not even read. And how did they manage to string a bridge across a high gorge using only dry grasses for rope? In a mixture of game show and historical demonstration, experts are challenged to come up with the answers. An American professor reckons that stone might have been softened with concentrated sunlight. A stone mason says he is crazy. Such disagreements further enliven an already enthralling programme.

Postcards from the Country: Norfolk

BBC2, 9.50pm

It is difficult to imagine this now, but the Norfolk Broads were once an industrial area. The peat mines had to be abandoned when the sea level rose and flooded the diggings. That was seven centuries ago. More recently the Broads became a haven for fishermen, reed cutters and messengers in boats. Today they are turned over to leisure use. Whether the changes have been for better or worse is the unstated theme of Richard Mabey's portrait. Old-timers wax nostalgic about the blacked-out wharves and the windmills and water still clean enough to swim in. They regret the passing of the bittern and even of the coypu, officially a pest though remembered with affection. But if the big pleasure cruisers have come to stay, and pollution has killed the fish, nobody can spoil the superb Norfolk skies.

The Trials of O.J. Oyston

Channel 4, 11.00pm

This profile of Owen Oyston was largely filmed before the colourful northern millionaire was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for raping a teenage model girl. Interviewed at length, Oyston is in buoyant mood, admitting to a healthy sexual appetite but insisting that he never had any of which he has never been guilty. Since the film goes no further than the evidence given in court, the casual viewer will find it hard to dispute the jury's verdict. The other strand of the programme is Oyston's claim of a right-wing conspiracy against him, but this is a story that has been compiled a dossier on Oyston for eight years suggests the conspiracy has some substance. Disappointingly, the matter is not taken further.

Peter Waymark



Johnny Briggs as Mike (7.30pm)

8.00 A Touch of Frost. A wages snafu at a local factory leads to murder, but a local factory is threatened when he identifies a suspect. With David Jason (1) (Teletext) (s) (8345)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (61677)

10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (45019)

10.40 Euro 96 — Highlights. Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of Russia v Czech Republic and Italy v Germany, matches which will complete the line-up for the quarter-finals (435890)

11.40 Special Report: Past Lives. The stories of people who believe they have been reincarnated (s) (413548)

12.10 FILM: The People across the Lake (1988) with Valerie Harper, Gerald McRaney and Barry Corbin. A family move from the busy city to what they think will be the peaceful countryside. But they soon discover the village is concealing a deadly secret. Directed by Arthur Allan Seidelman (s) (344759)

2.05 God's Gift (s) (947485) 3.00 Dear Nick (68310) 4.00 Bushell on the Box (1) (s) (45168) 4.30 The Time... the Place (1) (s) (657291) 5.00 Cover Story (s) (35136)

5.30 Morning News (20117)

As HTV WEST except:

6.45pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (267628)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story (7127345)

12.55 Coronation Street (4726426)

1.25 Cross Wits. Cryptic crossword game show presented by Tom O'Connor (59741616)

1.55 Home and Away Special. Another chance to see the specially compiled episode where Sophie goes into labour and then gives birth to twins, only for the child's father to be killed in a hit-and-run accident (51823141)

2.25 Brief Encounters (11515136)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (9389451)

6.45-7.00 Westcountry News (267628)

11.40 Short Story Cinema (413548)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away Special (4726426)

1.25 Cross Wits (59741616)

1.55 A Country Practice (35653800)

2.20 The Ultimate Shopping Guide (10165695)

2.50-3.20 Our House (8120093)

6.45-7.00 Central News and Weather (267628)

11.40 Phoenix (112242)

12.40am Bushell on the Box (9031681)

1.10 God's Gift (1762881)

2.10 Dear Nick (9471778)

3.05 In Focus (516402)

3.50 Jobfinder (5597730)

5.20 Asian Eye (8333758)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Coronation Street (4726426)

1.25 Home and Away Special (59741616)

1.55 Shortland Street (35653800)

2.20 Murder, She Wrote (8117971)

3.15-3.20 Breakaways (4554548)

6.45-7.00 Meridian Tonight (267628)

10.40 The Road Show (257258)

5.00am Freescreen (35136)

SAC

Starts: 6.35 Sharky and George (3818155)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (31703) 9.00 Mork and Mindy (11364) 9.30 Yakkity: The Little

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